AUSTRALIA'S

HONEYBEENEWS

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

Volume 15 Number 5 September - October 2022



Inside:

Rural Aid Support pg 8
Plant Profile - Forest red Gum pg 14
Junior Beekeeper's Club pg 50

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> Photo by Matt Skinner



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CONTENTS

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	D 4		D 04
NSWAA Executive Contacts & Responsibilities	Page 3	AgriFutures Rural Wonmen's Award & Grant	Page 31
President's Report	Page 5	B-Trace Australia	Page 33
New Members	Page 6	Honey Bee Industry Development Officer Report	Page 35
NSWAA Honour Roll	Page 6	Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program	Page 36
Rural Aid	Page 8	Bee Biosecurity Officer Report	Page 43
DPI Support Roles	Page 10	2023 SydneyRoyal National Honey Show	Page 37
AHBIC Update	Page 11	Junior Beekeeper Club	Page 50
Plant Profile - Forest Red Gum	Page 14	Branch News	Page 50/51
Accredited NSW Beekeeping Training	Page 14	A Few Facts About a Beekeeper	Page 51
NSWAA Bee Hive Incentive Program	Page 17	Branch Meeting Dates	Page 52
Fact Sheet - Varroa Mites	Page 18	Branch & Industry Contacts	Page 52
Save the Date 2023 NSWAA Conference	Page 23	Beekeeping Journals	Page 53
Fact Sheet - Braula Fly	Page 24	Member Benefits & Subscriptions	Page 53
Technical Specialist, Honey Bees Report	Page 25	Advertisers	Page 54

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Where has the time gone? Almond season is over and it is time for another Presidents report, but it only feels like yesterday that I was doing my first one!

We are nearing the end of the first 100 days of the Varroa incursion but where are we really?

- There are 100 infested properties.
- Thousands of hives have been or about to be euthanised.
- Hundreds of volunteers from all over Australia have helped.
- Trails have started for the baiting of feral hives.

I would like to thank all those who have been involved with the response effort so far. This is not an easy task and many people have had to do jobs they would never normally do.

The beekeepers who have had their hives euthanised, you are not alone and there are many in the same boat, so if you know anyone who has gone through this, please check in on them as this affects everyone differently.

The NSWAA executives have been working hard to have your questions answered by the right people (we have been meeting with DPI fortnightly) so they can give us a direction to move forward with. So, if you or your branch has a question or needs help with anything, please email me so we can get some action happening. Remember, the executives are not mind readers and if we don't know where help is needed, we cannot help!

Hopefully we will get some instructions soon on what is going to happen after the 100-day response plan is finished and the next step is taken by DPI.

More rain has hit the state and as many of you know, it has been one wet year! The weather forecasts are still reporting that there is more to come, and so it will be a wet time for some time to come. Please take care when driving in these conditions and help each other where possible, we all get bogged sometime!

Site fees have also been reviewed and set according to the CPI. ABS published their CPI figures for the June quarter on the 27th of July which was an annual increase of 6.1%. This means that from the 21st of August 2022 the apiary site fee pricing will be \$199.14 ex GST or \$219.05 inc. GST per site. This will apply from the 21st of August. You may still be entitled to waiver if your site were affected by the bush fires. NSWAA have also requested that beekeepers in the RED and PURPLE zones be given special consideration.

I would like to encourage all members to start planning for next year's conference. This will be held at Penrith Panthers club 17-19 May 2023. Speakers are being organised to make this a conference a stand out event. Therese is busy getting the trade show stands filled as usual, thanks Therese.

I would also like to ask branches to start organising honey donations for next year's Honey Land. Remember this event showcases your industry and without help, we cannot do it. We had a great response from the public this year, so let keep it going strong! Also we need volunteers to help run the stall as well, more details about this in the next HBN Issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Candice Clifford as the newly appointed NSWAA secretary/ treasurer. I know it has taken some time but there has been a lot going on. I ask members to be respectful to Candice.

I would also like to remind Branches that I wish to continue with the Branch President meeting, this date has not been set yet but a valuable time for all. More on this in the next issue of the HBN as well.

I have not had any great reports of any honey prospects for the near future. At the moment bees are building up well but where to move next is a hard decision to make. I suppose a bit of driving will be needed!

Well, I feel I have rambled on enough for now!

Happy honey hunting,

Steve Fuller Your President







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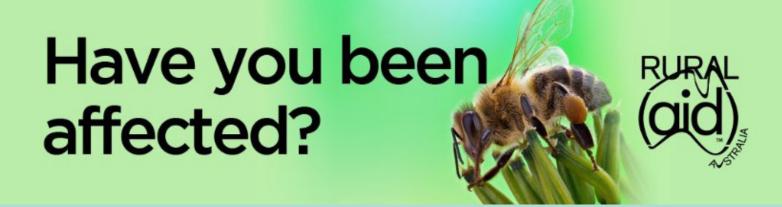


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https://faa.ruralaid.org.au/nsw-varroa-mite-outbreak-financial-aid-application/

We also have available our counselling intake line which is open to all farmers both recreational and primary producing. It's also available for workers on farms and their families. Rural Aid's counsellors are based across the country and offer free, confidential counselling to farmers and their families.

This phone line is staffed 9am to 5pm AEST Monday to Friday. To get in touch with a Rural Aid counsellor phone: 1300 175 594



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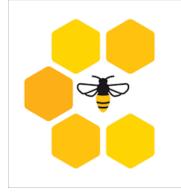
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Wow. What an introduction to the job as the new chair of AHBIC. Becoming the new chair at the AHBIC AGM on the 12th of Jun 22 I knew I had a steep learning curve in front of me. On the 21st of June I was informed that varroa mites had been positively identified at Newcastle port surveillance hives. By Saturday 25th June AHBIC had our acting CEO Danny Le Feuvre as an Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) at the State Control Centre (SCC) in Orange NSW. Obviously, the Newcastle varroa mite incursion has been AHBIC's primary focus. For me the steep curve became vertical.

The lobbying and input that all our industry ILO's have provided to DPI has been instrumental in working risk managed solutions being arrived at to allow most NSW beekeepers to maintain their businesses. Without these ILO's the Owner Reimbursement of Costs (ORC) would be very much in the embryonic stage rather than being close for those beekeepers in the red zones being able to submit claims for reimbursement.

For all ILO's including those at the Local Control Centre (LCC) a thank you for selflessly giving up time with your business, your families and your free time to help our industry through this crisis. There have been many volunteers both recreational and commercial beekeepers who have helped in work crews that industry also owe a big thank you to. Volunteers have come from every state.

I would like to thank Trevor Weatherhead OAM for his tireless work as the chair of AHBIC. Trevor has continued to mentor me and provide information and advice. Congratulations to Ben Mckee on his re-election to the executive of AHBIC. Ben has provided valuable input to AHBIC since the AGM. Congratulations to Jon Lockwood on being elected to the executive at the AGM. Jon has been quick to step up to the plate and has been an ILO and has provided insightful input at the several AHBIC meetings since the AGM. Therese Kershaw and Stephen Fewster continue to provide valuable input and have made me feel welcome as the new chair – thank you.

At the AGM the previous board had not finalised their selection for the new CEO. I asked the previous board to continue with the selection process (which was at the short list stage where I was invited to sit in on the final interviews) to find the most suitable CEO. As most people know Danny Le Feuvre was selected as the new CEO. I have great confidence in the panel that selected Danny was done so based purely on merit. Congratulations Danny. The executive has been blessed to have a CEO with extensive industry knowledge which Danny has used to the extreme in his many weeks as an ILO at the SCC providing input to NSW DPI.

Danny Le Feuvre was on the AHBIC executive and

as CEO has resigned from the executive which means there is now one vacancy. Correspondence has gone out asking for nominations. There will shortly be an AHBIC member meeting where the new executive member will be elected.

For those with a longer memory, in June AHBIC hosted a successful congress at Rosehill racecourse in Sydney. Thank you to all those that helped make this event happen. It certainly was a team effort. There are many people to thank and that will happen next newsletter. However, three people who rate a BIG thank you are Dr Shona Blair, Elizabeth Frost and Therese Kershaw. AHBIC and industry thank you.

It has NOT been business as usual at AHBIC and for that I make no apology. AHBIC's priority is this varroa incursion. AHBIC executive has been meeting to provide guidance to the CEO on the way forward with this incursion. AHBIC listened to our member bodies and instigated nightly information updates on the incursion which have now been reduced to three times a week. These zoom meetings achieve two things, keeping our member bodies informed and also giving feedback to AHBIC executive and CEO.

You may have heard that AHBIC is investigating getting secretarial support for the CEO. The CEO is working 7 days a week, at least 12 hours a day to stay across incursion response issues and cover the time critical AHBIC tasks. AHBIC executive and I appreciate the hours that Danny is putting in which is way more than his contract states. The Secretarial support will enable more timely updates on Facebook, website, Newsletters, commencing subcommittee meetings which have been on hold and typing up of many minutes. This will enable the CEO to continue to be across the incursion and progress other AHBIC priorities. Given AHBIC's current finances the secretarial position will be reviewed regularly.

This message would not be complete without acknowledging the sacrifice, dedication and professionalism that Stephen Fuller and Sheila Stokes have shown at the LCC and SCC. I have been extremely pleased with the work that all ILO's that have represented AHBIC at the SCC.

I have been in the chair position for less than 70 days and while the job is not yet what I imagined, it has been rewarding and I have learnt a lot — with a lot more to learn. The most important item I have learnt is that I am supported by a passionate and talented team and for that I am truly thankful.

Stephen Targett

Chair



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Plant Profile

Plant Profile: Forest Red Gum (Eucalyptus tereticornis)

The following plant profile is from *Honey & Pollen Flora of South-Eastern Australia* by Dr. Doug Somerville. This book focuses on the value of plants to nectar and pollen-eating animals, honey bees in particular. The result of over 30 years of research, it brings together scientific knowledge and the experience of hundreds of beekeepers into a valuable reference work. The book can be purchased from Tocal College here: www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/publications/bees

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J22-060

Forest red gum

Eucalyptus tereticornis

A valuable beekeeping tree due to the volume of high quality pollen produced. Not a heavy producer of nectar, but useful quantities of honey can be obtained.

Moderately drought-resistant and frost-tolerant. It is an ornamental tree that provides shade. The timber is red, hard and heavy and has an interlocked grain that makes it difficult to work when dry. It is suitable for heavy construction and fencing.

Habit: A medium-sized to tall tree with a thick trunk. Some trees grow to a height of more than 40 m and the trunk may be 1–1.5 m in diameter at the base.

Occurrence: Grows on a variety of soils in most coastal regions of NSW and extends into Qld and New Guinea. It also extends inland to the ranges.

About half of the apiary sites worked for this species in NSW are located on private property, the other on public lands.

Bark: The bark is mainly smooth and grey-blue in colour, with irregular blotches caused by the shedding of large flakes or ribbons of bark. The bark of older trees is often rough, flaky and persistent at the base.

Leaves: Adult leaves are large, alternate, stalked, lanceolate to narrow-lanceolate tapering to a sharp point, and 10–20 cm x 1–2.5 cm. They are usually concolorous, green and glossy. Lateral veins are somewhat irregular and at 40°–60° to the midrib. Juvenile leaves are elliptical to broad-lanceolate.

Buds: Buds are conical or horn-shaped and 12–18 mm long. The operculum is conical and 2–3 times the length of the hemispherical calyx tube.

Buds are carried for approximately 12 months.

Flowers: The inflorescence is axillary and umbel-like with groups of 5–12 flowers on distinct stalks up to 20 mm long. Peduncles are cylindrical and up to 25 mm long.

In districts where the tree is common there will be some trees in flower most years but heavy general flowering occurs only spasmodically. Flowering frequency is between 1–5 years, with a stronger frequency every 2–3 years.





Flowering period												
Months	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D
Response Level												





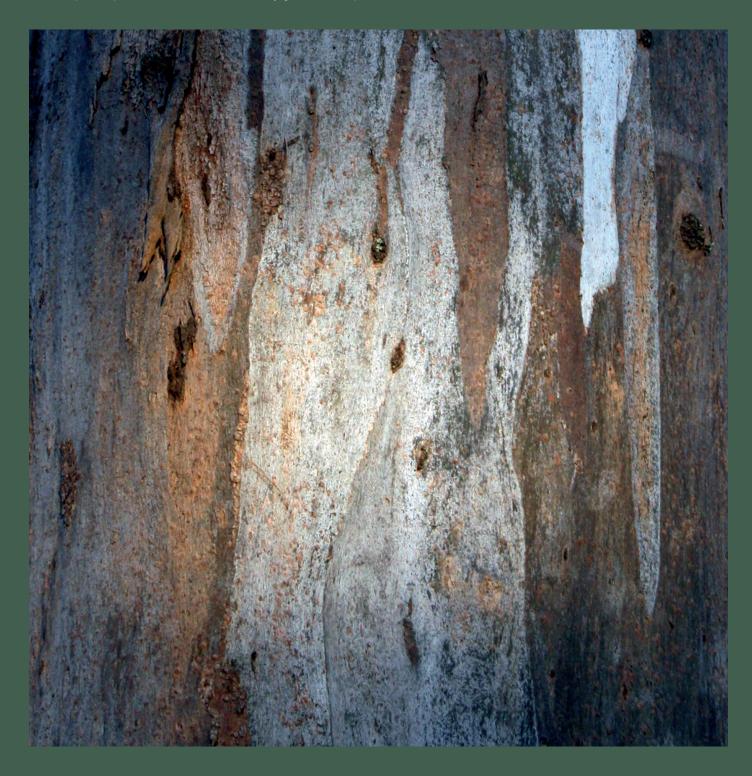


Flowers over a long period, from June to November with the main flowering period between September and October in its southern growing zone and earlier in the northern regions.

Fruit: Fruits are nearly hemispherical and about 9 mm x 10 mm. The calyx rim is often sharp. The disc is broad and domed. Valves are strongly exserted, 4 rarely 5.

Honey: There is considerable variation from year to year in the value of this species as a source of nectar. It is usually of minor to moderate value because it flowers at a time when bees have heavy demands on honey for brood-rearing and do not, therefore, produce large honey surpluses. However, in favourable seasons yields of 23 kg per hive are possible. The honey is medium amber and has a distinctive flavour similar to that of several other red gums. It is seldom produced as a straight line.

Pollen: An abundance of cream pollen is collected. Beekeepers rate this tree as medium to high. The average crude protein levels for four samples of pollen was 25.8%, which is very good. All samples tested were deficient in the essential amino acid isoleucine.



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An opportunity for NSWAA members and business associates to support each other through the Bee Hive Incentive Program.

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Fact sheet



Varroa mites

What are varroa mites?

Varroa mites (Varroa destructor and V. jacobsoni) are external parasites of adult honey bees, and drone and worker bee brood. Varroa mites feed and reproduce on larvae and pupae, causing malformation and weakening of honey bees as well as transmitting numerous viruses. Heavy varroa mite infestations can build up in 3-4 years and cause scattered brood, crippled and crawling honey bees, a reduction in honey bee population, supersedure of queen bees and ultimate colony breakdown and death of the hive.

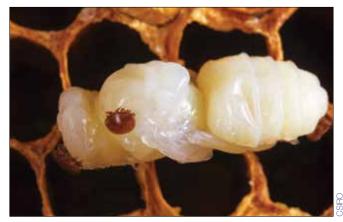
What do they look like?

Adult female varroa mites are oval, flat, red-brown and around 1.1 mm long and 1.5 mm wide. They can be seen with the naked eye. Varroa mites complete their life cycle in honey bee brood and can be observed in both drone and worker bee brood. Examining the brood involves uncapping brood (preferably drone) to check for the dark mites in the cell and against the pearly white bodies of the developing brood. They can also be observed between the sclerites and between the head and thorax on adult worker bees and drones.

What can they be confused with?

Varroa mites could be confused with the braula fly (Braula coeca) which is red-brown, 1.5 mm long, covered in spine like hairs and has six long legs. This pest is currently only present in Tasmania and is generally considered quite harmless. Varroa mites could also be confused with pollen mites (Mellitiphis alvearius) which are light brown and are around 0.75 mm long and 0.75 mm wide. Pollen mites are not harmful to honey bees but are sometimes found in hives.

Varroa mites could also be confused with other exotic parasitic mites, most notably tropilaelaps mites (Tropilaelaps clareae and T. mercedesae). If any mites are observed on adult honey bees or in the brood, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline immediately on 1800 084 881.



Varroa mites on honey bee pupa



Varroa mite on a forager worker bee



Braula fly (top), varroa mite (right), tropilaelaps mite (bottom) and pollen mite (left)

What should beekeepers look for?

Symptoms are dependent on the level of varroa mite infestation, the level of brood within the colony and the potential of viral infections transmitted by the varroa mites. Colonies with low infestation generally show very few symptoms. As varroa mite infestation grows, it results in the significantly reduced weight of worker bees and drones, impaired flight performance and a lower rate of return to the colony after foraging, a reduced lifespan as well as deformed wings and abdomens. Colony symptoms, commonly called parasitic mite syndrome (PMS), include a reduction in the adult honey bee population, loss of coordinated social behaviour, distorted and deformed honey bees, scattered brood with dead or uncapped brood and rapid honey bee de-population in the colony.



Varroa mites can spread through drifting drones and worker bees as well as through swarms and absconding colonies. The transport and movement of hives, used beekeeping equipment, packaged bees and queen bees are also effective means of spread.

Where are they now?

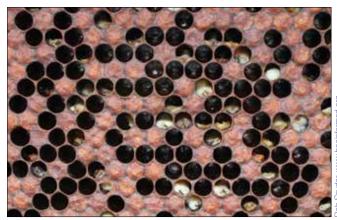
Varroa destructor is present in Europe, North America, South America, Africa, parts of Asia and New Zealand. The genotype of Varroa jacobsoni that parasitises European honey bee brood is currently only present in some regions of Papua New Guinea.

How can beekeepers protect their hives from varroa mites?

This pest is currently not present in Australia and there are strict quarantine requirements in place to protect the Australian honey bee industry.

If you see any of these symptoms, or observe mites on your honey bees or in the brood, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline.

EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE 1800 084 881



Parasitic mite syndrome (PMS) caused by varroa mites



Worker honey bee with severe wing deformities as a result of varroa infestation

For more information about varroa mites, go to www.beeaware.org.au/varroa-mites.

The BeeAware website contains extensive information on varroa mites, including:

- Life cycle
- Effect on bees
- Detection methods
- Spread and distribution
- Overseas experiences
- Additional fact sheets and videos

Disclaimer: The material in this publication is for general information only and no person should act, or fail to act on the basis of this material without first obtaining professional advice. Plant Health Australia and all persons acting for Plant Health Australia expressly disclaim liability with respect to anything done in reliance on this publication.

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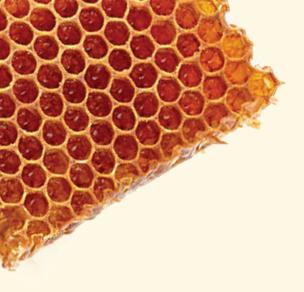
1kg, 1.5kg Honey Pails & 2.2L, 5L Pails

10L, 15L, 20L Pails



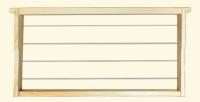


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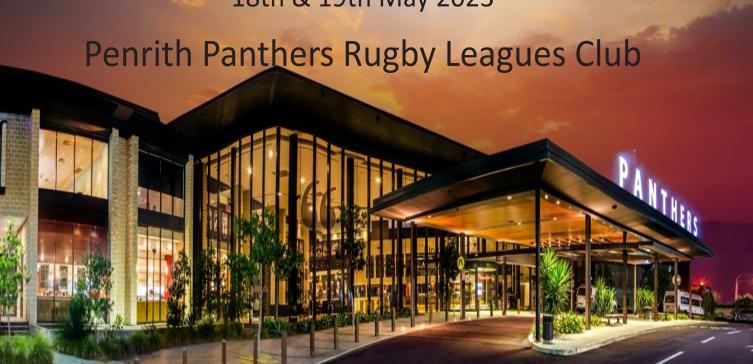
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Fact sheet



Braula fly

What is braula fly?

The braula fly lives in honey bee colonies and attaches itself to honey bees where it feeds on nectar and pollen at the honey bee's mouth and on material secreted by the host. The pest is not considered a serious threat to commercial beekeeping as it does not damage or parasitise any stage of the honey bee life cycle. However, its presence may reduce the egg laying capacity of queen bees and could potentially make the detection of external parasitic mites difficult.

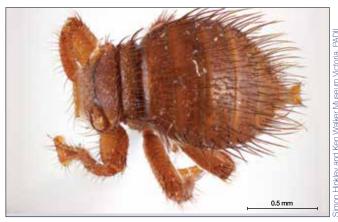
What does it look like?

The braula fly is a small (0.9 mm wide by 1.5 mm long) wingless fly. It is red-brown, covered in hairs and has six legs. The braula fly lay small eggs (0.84 mm by 0.42 mm) throughout the hive, however, only the eggs deposited on capped honey comb will hatch. The hatched larvae tunnel under the cappings leaving narrow tracks about 1 mm wide across the surface of the comb. This tunnelling gives the comb a fractured appearance, a key characteristic of braula fly presence.

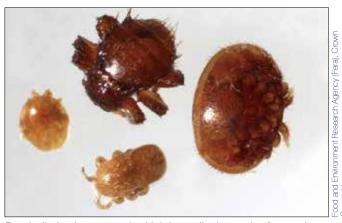
What can it be confused with?

Braula fly could be confused with the exotic parasitic varroa mites (*Varroa destructor* and *V. jacobsoni*) and tropilaelaps mites (*Tropilaelaps clareae* and *T. mercedesae*). Adult female varroa mites are oval, flat, red-brown, and 1 mm long and 1.5 mm wide. tropilaelaps mites are active, red-brown mites which are around 1 mm long and 0.5-1 mm wide.

Braula fly could also be confused with pollen mites (*Mellitiphis alvearius*) which are light brown and around 0.75 mm long and 0.75 mm wide. Pollen mites are not harmful to honey bees but are sometimes found in hives. If any mites are observed on adult honey bees or in the brood, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline immediately on 1800 084 881.



Braula fly is small and wingless



Braula fly (top), varroa mite (right), tropilaelaps mite (bottom) and pollen mite (left)



An outline of the braula fly on a finger, note the 6 prominent legs

Technical Specialist, Honey Bees Report

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Firsthand Varroa experience in the US: False Confidence and new tools

The following is part one in a series of cautionary tales about underestimating Varroa mite. This tale takes place in the US where Varroa mite is established. When I started in beekeeping in 2008, it was as a student volunteer (aka enthusiastic dogsbody) for bee breeders Susan Cobey and Kim Fondrk at the University of California, Davis (UCD), Harry H. Laidlaw Bee Research Facility. This was about 19 years after Varroa was first discovered in California. By 2008 I had plenty of insect experience working on different entomology field and lab studies while at Uni, but no prior beekeeping experience or direct experience with parasites like Varroa.

With a general knack for animal handling and ability to follow instruction, I soaked up knowledge at the UCD Bee Lab from Sue and Dr. Robert E. Page's technician Kim Fondrk like a sponge in my four years working as a technician there. Both Sue and Kim are queen bee artificial insemination (AI) masters, managing the New World Carniolan population and research populations for genetic studies, mostly around pollen-hoarding, respectively. Kim is a classic US beekeeper technician, highly practical and free with his knowledge, a what you see is what you get, bring you back down to earth type.

Generally, the first couple years or so into anyone's beekeeping journey (and I was no exception) they reach the pinnacle of a mountain I like to call False Confidence. The steep learning curve one has hopefully climbed by then, making one feel accomplished and slightly invincible. I'd been monitoring Varroa mite levels for Sue for a year and a bit, counting natural mite fall (in the tens of 1,000s by then) on sticky mats from ventilated bottom boards. Before the mites reached a certain population level, I'd be tasked with treating the research colonies with either Apiguard (thymol gel), oxalic acid dribble, or Hopguard strips. We also baited Varroa mites with their preferred food, attractive drone brood frames, which we removed once the drones were capped, mites trapped within, and froze them, ensuring we put a second frame of drone comb in breeders on schedule for ample mature drones to be available for seasonal AI research and

When I eventually got a few backyard hives of my own, I thought I'd see what would happen if I delayed treatment for Varroa. With the UCD research hives, every season without fail we treated for mites once in spring and once in autumn. Since I studied entomology (the study of

insects) and previously worked in pest insect studies, I was familiar with "IPM" or 'integrated pest management' and I wondered if we were doing the right thing, essentially treating by the calendar, at least from my perspective back then. In California, where beekeepers and bee hives are plentiful (though not as plentiful as the East Coast of Australia!), re-infestation with mites from nearby hives carrying high mite levels is an everpresent concern at any time of year. As I learned over time, without our well-timed spring and autumn mite controls, we otherwise would've reached and surpassed a damaging threshold in the mite population levels.

Beyond this mite threshold, the hive population would crash with more Varroa-infested brood than not and many workers emerging with visibly deformed wings. The majority of workers which successfully emerge as adults will have a shortened lifespan due to being parasitised during their pupal development. In short, a doomed hive. Take the time to review Madlen Kratz' previous Honey Bee News article "The life cycle and feeding habits of Varroa mites" in Volume 15, Number 4, for a refresher on the subject.

Predictably, in the UCD California environment, there was never a season when mite populations (Figure 1) were low enough that I was directed to withhold miticide treatment from the research hives. Back atop False Confidence Mountain, however, I allowed curiosity to get the better of me. I wanted to see if the mite population growth in my personal hives would be different. Over several months, mite levels climbed in the two hives in the backyard of my share house. I'd made the predicted spring/summer honey crop of one 10-frame, full depth super, followed by months of dearth. By mid-summer, since I did not treat my hives to get mite levels down in spring, the tell-tale symptoms of shotgun brood pattern followed by further brood breakdown, early stage parasitic mite syndrome and emerging workers with deformed wings made it clear that I'd had my head in the clouds atop False Confidence Mountain. It was time to climb back down to reality otherwise I'd quickly have two dead hives on my hands.



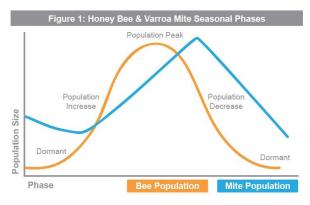


Figure 1. Credit: www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org

After this wakeup call, on further examination of the UCD Bee Lab mite treatment regime, I realised we actually were practicing integrated pest management (IPM). IPM is essentially a series of pest management evaluations, decisions and controls (Figure 2). The key IPM concepts for Varroa mite control where it's established, are hopefully steps you already are taking to manage American foulbrood (AFB) and small hive beetle (SHB). The four steps include:

- **Set Action Thresholds:** The point where a pest or disease level requires action to control or eliminate it. **Example:** For AFB the Action Threshold would be 'Find one cell of AFB, prepare to euthanise hive asap and sterilise re-usable equipment.
- Monitor and Identify Pests/Diseases: Be able to assess pest/disease levels accurately, so you can accurately assess whether or not control is necessary. If putting out chemical treatments before pest levels require it for example, you are both increasing your input and labour costs and potentially contributing to pest resistance. Example: For SHB monitor your SHB levels in line with hive population and stress levels to gauge when management/treatment is necessary.
- **Prevention:** Preventative control methods, before treatment is required. **Example:** In the US where Varroa is established, this could be cultural methods such as splitting hives early in the season which causes a break in the brood cycle (and mite cycle!), or mechanical methods such as screened bottom boards and culling the first frame of drone brood of the season.
- Control: When monitoring, identification and action thresholds indicate control of the pest is required and prevention methods are no longer effective. Evaluate appropriate control methods for your unique situation. Example: At the UCD Bee Lab, once cultural and mechanical prevention methods were exhausted, we rotated treatment types to prevent pest resistance and only used miticides with natural compounds as their active ingredient (Apiguard, Hopguard, oxalic acid). However, these hives were stationary so did not have the higher pest re-infestation pressures of US commercial hives travelling to multiple pollina-

tion events and high hive density honey production environments. At the UCD Bee Lab we also had the budget and labour luxury allowing us to rely on "softer" miticide chemical treatments to keep our mite levels low, which is not the case for most US commercial operators.

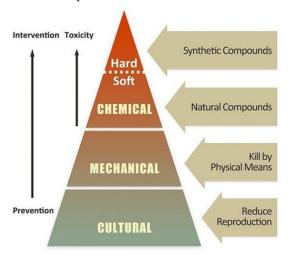


Figure 2. The IPM pyramid for Varroa mite control. Image by Nick Sloff. Credit <u>extension.psu.edu</u>

Australia's top beekeeping operations have the deadly combination of floral resource access, knowledge of floral resource life cycle and outputs, hive husbandry skills, pest management skills, business skills, general resourcefulness, can do attitude and drive. In the face of the current Varroa mite incursion and hopefully eradication, existing beekeeper skills can be put to good use. Get across IPM concepts, particularly the **Monitor and Identify Pests/Diseases** step. In NSW it's now a requirement for beekeepers to monitor a percentage of their hives for Varroa mites three times a year by alcohol washing. Make sure you're implementing this and ensuring any employees or beekeeper mates of yours are across it too.

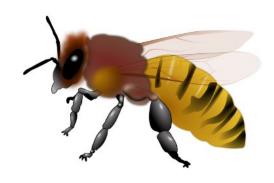
Recommended reading and videos:

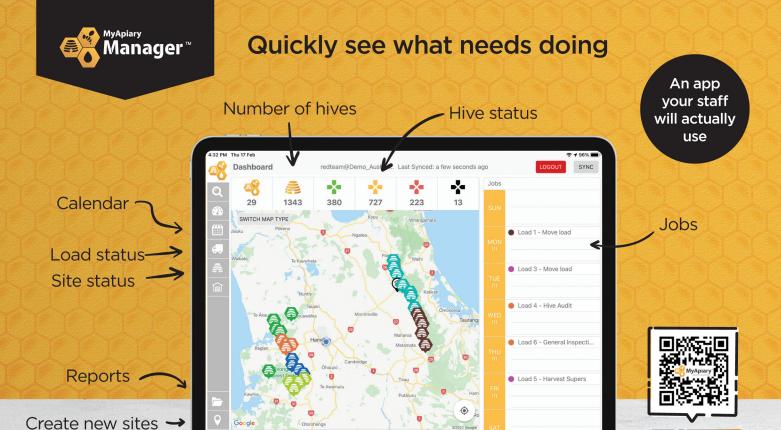
 Methods to Control Varroa Mites: An Integrated Pest Management Approach

extension.psu.edu/methods-to-control-varroa-mites-an-integrated-pest-management-approach

 Honey Bee Health Coalition Guide to Effective Varroa Sampling and Control

honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroamanagement/







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Applications for the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award & acceleration Grant are now open

Female leaders who are creating impact, innovating and making a difference to rural and regional Australia are encouraged to apply.

Applications are now open for the 2023 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award and the AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant.

AgriFutures Rural Women's Award

The Rural Women's Award is Australia's leading Award empowering and celebrating the inclusive and courageous leadership of women involved in Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses, and communities.

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award has seen close to 300 exceptional women develop innovative projects that are contributing to a prosperous future for rural Australia.

The 2022 National Finalists' projects range from support for rural and remote families and a magazine for female entrepreneurs, to improving the mental and physical wellbeing of farmers, giving a voice to disability in agriculture and reducing food insecurity in indigenous communities.

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award has a revised and tightened criteria which requires applicants to have an existing project, business or program which falls into a Community, Collaboration or Commercial category.

"As an organisation dedicated to the long-term prosperity of our rural and emerging industries, the Rural Women's Award is just one of AgriFutures Australia's initiatives ensuring those working towards the same vision are identified, celebrated and empowered.

"If you know someone who is actively contributing to rural and regional Australia, tap them on the shoulder. We hear time and time again, that it is often the friendly encouragement from someone else, that gets applicants over the line to apply," said AgriFutures Australia, Managing Director, John Harvey.

Each state and territory winner receives a \$15,000 grant provided by Platinum Sponsor Westpac, as well as access to professional development opportunities and national Alumni networks.

National Manager for the Award's Platinum Sponsor, Westpac, Stephen Hannan said the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award has long been a pathway to further success and inspires other women in regional, remote and rural industries.

"If you look at previous Award winners, being a leader doesn't always involve the stereotypical CEO title or

wearing a business suit, it's about energy and passion for a project that is driving change in its own unique way," he said.

"We know there are many women doing incredible work in our rural sectors and we strongly recommend they apply for the 2023 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award. It is a life-changing opportunity to also forge friendships with the Rural Women's Award Alumni, be mentored and share knowledge for the benefit of others."

AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant is a program developed in 2021 to foster growth and development in women involved in Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses and communities.

It runs separately to the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award; however, it complements the process, aiming to provide a leadership and development opportunity to women who are not quite ready to apply for the Award.

Seven Australian women per annum will be granted with a learning and development bursary of \$7,000 to enable them to bring their idea, cause or vision to life.

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant encourages innovation and problem solving, looking for women with an idea, cause or vision that benefits rural or emerging industries, businesses or communities. The idea needs to have a community, collaboration or commercial focus and align to the values of the Grant.

"We are thrilled to be offering the AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant for a second year in 2023, equipping rural women with the tools they need to make a real and tangible impacts in their industry and community.

"The AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant is an important program as it provides a vehicle for emerging leaders across the nation to realise their potential. It aims to nurture the development of new and exciting ideas, with successful applicants encouraged to apply for the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award in the future," said AgriFutures Australia, Managing Director, John Harvey.

Applications for both the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award and the AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant are now open and close on Wednesday, 19 October 2022.

Apply now at <u>www.agrifutures.com.au/rwa</u> or <u>www.</u> agrifutures.com.au/acceleration-grant

AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant aims to provide Australian Women with learning and development opportunities, upskilling them so they can bring their idea, cause or vision to life.

Fast facts

- Seven x \$7,000 Acceleration Grants for learning and development are awarded each year.
- Applicants are required to have an idea, a cause or a vision in its early stages.
- The grants are awarded on merit, not per State/Territory.
- Successful AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant applicants can apply for the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award in the future.

Who can apply

The Grant is open to all women involved in rural and emerging industries, rural and regional businesses and rural and regional communities. Women must be over the age of 18, and must be Australian citizens or permanent residents. No formal qualifications are required.

How to apply

Go to agrifutures.com.au/acceleration-grant

Key dates

- 7 September 2022: Applications open.
- 19 October 2022: Applications close.
- November 2022-January 2023: Review of Grant submissions.
- February-March 2023: Announcements of successful recipients.

Key contact

Sheridan Ingold

Manager, Capacity Building 0438 921 421 sheridan.ingold@agrifutures.com.au



AgriFutures Rural Women's Award

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award is Australia's leading Award in acknowledging and supporting the essential role women play in rural and emerging industries, businesses and communities.

The Award provides a platform to inspire and support Australian women to use and develop their skills to benefit their industries and communities.

Over the past 22 years, the Award has gained a significant profile, and is recognised as a program of influence among parliamentarians, industry, media and Award alumni.

Fast facts

- Each state and territory winner receives a \$15,000
 Westpac grant for existing projects, businesses or
 programs, a \$7,500 Learning and Development budget,
 access to professional development opportunities and
 alumni networks.
- The National Winner and Runner Up receive an additional \$20,000 and \$15,000 respectively.
- State and territory department representatives provide individuals with guidance and feedback throughout the application process.
- Winners and finalists have the opportunity to join the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award Alumni.
- Each state/territory has a Chair and Committee which sit on the selection panel to work alongside applicants and provide support along the way. The committees also work collaboratively with the state and territory agencies and facilitate events for Alumni in their state.

Partners

Westpac, NSW Government Department of Primary Industries, Government of Victoria Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions, Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Northern Territory Government Department of Primary Industry and Resources, Tasmanian Government Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Government of South Australia Primary Industries and Regions SA and Government of Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Key dates

- February-April: Finalists participate in face-to-face interviews with the selection panel. State/territory winners announced.
- July: State/territory winners participate in a three-day workshop and national selection panel interviews.
- 6 September 2022: Gala Dinner & National
 Announcement in Canberra at Parliament House.
- 7 September 2022: Applications open.
- 19 October 2022: Applications close.

Who can apply

The Award is open to all women involved in rural and emerging industries, rural and regional businesses and rural and regional communities. Women must be over the age of 18, and must be Australian citizens or permanent residents. No formal qualifications are required.

How to apply

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Key contact

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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

A wake-up call to our industry How sugar syrup could increase pollination success!

The 22nd of June 2022, the date when *Varroa destructor* was discovered in Newcastle NSW, is a date that many of us will not forget, or rather the endless days and weeks of uncertainty that followed. By no means is it over yet either and the impact is felt by many!

Our new "normal" it seems keeps on changing more so than ever, or maybe just at a quicker rate?

Others say it was indeed a matter of time before also we had to deal with the mite in one way or another in Australia.

With our changing environment and conditions comes a constant challenge to adapt. Nothing ever stays the same, so why would our beekeeping practices?

One thing however that is consistent is our increasing need for pollination services all year round. These include our native vegetation as well as managed crops.

Preparing bees for winter pollination such as for blueberry or almond pollination requires great effort. This year, the combination of "adapt and extra effort" pretty well described what happened in preparation for and during almond pollination in NSW and particularly in Victoria. Restricted hive movement has put great pressure on beekeepers for not being able to supply hives for the pollination of almonds, great pressure on brokers for sourcing hives and great pressure on growers for not having enough bees to meet their stocking rates for pollination.



Figure 1. Almond flowers

Commercially grown almonds are close to 100% reliant on honeybee pollination, so a shortfall of about 50% of hives across almond orchards in Victoria (Robinvale



region) had growers more than worried and bee brokers working at maximum capacity!



Figure 2. Putting out feeding stations for honey bees in shell tubs using straw for the beez to land on

Melinda Brown, our NSW DPI Technical Officer Honeybees, and I were able to meet with bee broker Trevor Monson and his team, who run 'Monson's Honey and Pollination' business to experience the scene firsthand.

We met with Trevor on the 15th of August, by which at least 30% of the blossom (of the main almond variety) was out. The next day we joined the crew to put out sugar syrup (at $\sim 30\%$ concentration) at each drop of bees that were placed about 400m apart. The amount of sugar syrup provided was based on 750ml per hive and feeding occurred at least two times over a two-week period, a week before peak flowering and a week after.

Why sugar syrup?

Sugar syrup provides a source of carbohydrate for honey bees. Almonds produce only very little nectar, but in this instance, there was more to the story.

Besides sugar syrup coming in handy during periods of nectar shortage or to top up winter storage, it has other benefits too!

Honey bees can be stimulated particularly by feeding a thin sugar syrup (less than 50%), which leads to increased brood rearing and pollen collection when nectar is otherwise short.

A thin sugar syrup most closely resembles nectar in its stimulative effect.

While the feeding exercise worked a treat in getting the bees going, and the bees consumed the syrup within 4-5 hours maximum, the pollination success won't be known until late October after the second natural drop of nuts.

However, it's never easy to determine the direct effect of one factor (in this case sugar feeding) in the field because so many other factors can influence the outcome, without even mentioning agricultural practices.

A grower we met with described the bees as having more vigour since they were fed with sugar syrup, indicating that the sugar syrup has worked its magic. Yet, the weather during the pollination period hasn't been on the bees' side for several days. It has still been cold, overcast and rainy. Luckily no rain during feeding though. Nevertheless, it was satisfying to see a trial that succeeded in its initial goal of stimulating bees to collect pollen. The growers seemed intrigued and also hopeful that for this year the trees may drop fewer fruit than normal if less flowers per tree are being pollinated, still resulting in a decent crop.



Figure 3. Honey bees collecting almond pollen at one of the orchards.

A great effort for everyone involved and it certainly wouldn't have been possible without the extra helping hands of beekeepers to pull it all together.

A win for both growers but also beekeepers for having better bees coming out of almond pollination.

Supplementary feeding certainly has its place and we are likely to see more of it in near future.

2022 Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership program

This year in August Zac Alcock successfully completed the the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program held over six days at the Marcus Oldham College in Geelong, Victoria.

Zac attended the program with about forty other successful participants, all with a vision for agriculture and the likelihood to be future leaders.

During the course of the week, Zac had the opportunity to develop and improve many skills including leadership, communication and planning skills. This was all achieved through group participation and personal involvement sessions facilitated over the course of the week by highly regarded Leadership program conveyor David Cornish and Leadership Communications Coach James Freemantle. The program was also a great opportunity to network with current and future industry leaders from many



different agricultural sectors, as well as listening to and engaging with keynote speakers such as Tim Mcgavin from Laguna Bay and Barry Irvin from Bega Cheese.

Zac says that the program was a great week, the Marcus Oldham college is a very well-run facility and feels extremely lucky to attend and encourages anyone with the opportunity to attend to do so and embrace the week as he felt he got a lot out of it. Zac feels he has gained skills and knowledge that will help enable him continue to be a strong advocate for the Honeybee Industry.

Zac would like to thank Marcus Oldham College and NSWAA for this amazing opportunity.





2023 Sydney Royal National Honey Show

It's time to start prepping for your entry into the 2023 Sydney Royal National Honey Show, the schedule will be uploaded to the RAS website in December 2022, with entries to open online in January 2023. The competition will be held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, 6 – 17 April 2023.

The Sydney Royal National Honey Show is the premier competition for Australian honey producers and the only honey competition in the Southern Hemisphere awarding Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. Open, Small Producer, School and Commercial Classes include honey (comb, creamed, chunk, liquid & granulated), beeswax, candles, wax moulds, mead and pollen. Classes have been added to include Native Honey and Flow Honey.

The Honeyland stand in Hall 5, in between Arts & Crafts and Flower & Garden, is always a Show-time favourite; here, honey tasting will be offered to the public along with the rare opportunity to see the inner-workings of a hive at the Bee-Zeebo exhibition.

Why enter?

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

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

Further details visit - <u>www.rasnsw.com.au</u>



National Honey Show 2022





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 - (d) Your receipt will show your B-TRACE ID number
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- Step 3. You are ready to go!

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Upon successful audit completion you will be issued an Audit Certificate and Audit ID number this is your key to full B-TRACE certification.

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WHO IS B-TRACE PROGRAM FOR?

Intended for small semi commercial and recreational beekeepers who:

- Manage or own total hive holding of 100 hives or less, and production/sales of less than 6,000 kg per year
- Buy in honey bee products less than 6,000 kg per year
- Typically sell to:
 - > Farmers Markets
 - > Direct to consumers
 - > Food stalls
 - Boutique shops, such as Bakeries, Fruit and Vegetable, Delicatessens, Restaurants and similar
 - > Or, any other outlets





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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



Spring and already being swamped with Small hive beetle

Whilst varroa is what a lot of beekeepers currently have on their minds I suspect that many should instead be thinking more about managing small hive beetle (SHB). This already established pest has recently enjoyed some very good breeding seasons and is likely to cause significant damage to beekeepers bottom lines this year.

The continued wet conditions last year saw a major surge in beetle numbers through much of NSW, with some inland areas that normally host very few beetles reaching the levels normally only experienced on the coast (hundreds of beetles per hive). Those slime-outs then bred up to flood those areas. Some coastal areas saw massive influxes of beetles right through into late autumn. The numbers of beetles that were overwintered in some hives is massive, so expect them to cause problems earlier and more frequently than in previous recent seasons.

During both varroa response surveillance and more recently in red zone euthanasia operations in the Newcastle area I have seen frighteningly high numbers of SHB in some hives. I actually wondered how many of those hives would become slime-outs within the next few weeks or months if it was not for the fact that I was putting petrol into them right then. I was literally seeing THOUSANDS of beetles!

I also had many reports from beekeepers (both commercial and recreational and from inland and on the coast) over the last season where they have had significant losses (10-30% of their hives) due to SHB, which in monetary terms is a massive hit to their profitability. When you start calculating the costs from lost honey production, sourcing a replacement colony and the additional work required to clean up just one slime-out (all this could easily equal \$600-900) you may be able to absorb that once or twice, but when it is ten, fifty, or even hundreds of colonies in a season then that cost becomes a MAJOR point of concern. Preventing that situation from occurring is far better than cleaning it up (and paying for it) again and again.

The main points that operators should be addressing this season to minimise their financial losses due to SHB are;

- 1. maintain strong vigorous colonies that can fight SHB with a young queen (so they don't swarm and lose their strength).
- 2. minimise stress on hives (think about what you are doing to them).
- 3. minimise swarming by having young queens

- 4. manage excess space within the colony (don't have too much)
- 5. use as many SHB traps and devices (that work) as required.
- 6. consider anti-beetle bottom boards to kill lots of beetles when they swarm into a hive
- 7. clean up any slime outs IMMEDIATELY to minimise their breeding success in your apiaries.

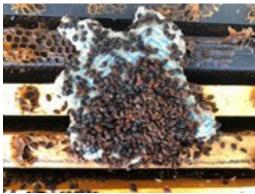


Slime outs breed beetles, so do something about them straight away or prepare to fight more beetles and have more hive losses.

A lot of SHB management fits right into good normal hive management, but that's where it sometimes gets tricky. Many beekeepers are hesitant to change the way they always do their beekeeping, so when things get way out of balance (like having very high SHB this season versus the "normal") a lot of their "normal" practices will actually cause higher losses due to SHB. There needs to be the ability to prepare for the threat and change practices accordingly to prevent it from occurring. A big part of that is having sufficient time available for managing each hive, so if you are already run off your feet (before the slime-outs even begin) then you need to do something about that too! You will never keep up if you have more hives than you can manage.

This season may be a great one for those selling SHB traps, devices and bottom boards, as without them many hives in SHB areas will literally fill up with beetles until they explode and slime out (breeding even more beetles). Beetles affect every aspect of a colonies health, especially by putting that hive under ongoing stress, because bees are constantly chasing after beetles and cleaning up the eggs that they lay. If you cannot manage beetle numbers then expect more stress related issues such as European foulbrood, Chalkbrood and Nosema etc., as well as lower hive productivity (less bees, less honey) and higher hive losses (less honey and more stuff to burn, clean and replace).

A common SHB trap used within industry is the homemade coreflute trap. Last season a number of the operators with big SHB hive losses said that they were using such traps, which indicates that whilst these traps were in place they were simply not adequate enough to stop the higher numbers of beetles seen. The same goes for "Chux" wipes, which may be effective when used in combination with other traps but may not be enough defence just by themselves. I often hear or read comments from beekeepers saying "I only ever use this (or that) and I never have any beetle problems". This may be true for nine out of every ten years in their particular location (normally inland), but wholly inadequate for eight out of every ten years elsewhere (eg. on the coast). Considering that even way out west (where the rain 'don't normally fall') there are growing numbers of SHB, so this is a particularly unnatural year with SHB and the normal rules may not apply.



This chux caught a lot of beetles, but it was not nearly enough as the hive was still overrun and slimed out.

In the Newcastle area I have seen hives operating with 5 or 6 beetle traps in the honey super, plus an Apithor in the base, but the hive still had significant amounts of SHB present. Had there been fewer traps it is likely that the number of SHB (and slime-outs) would be higher.

This season will require beekeepers to commit additional resources to protect their hives from SHB, as the threat is going to be far greater than "normal", so forget what you "normally do" and look to go one or two steps further!

For many that will mean upgrading from just one coreflute to using multiple internal traps and an Apithor to keep numbers under control. If you use a ventilated bottom board then it may be best using either a tray (with oil or Ag lime etc.) underneath to catch and kill SHB, or to block it up so it is "beetle proof". I had a significantly higher percentage of ventilated bottom board hives (without trays) unexpectedly slime out this previous season versus closed bottoms, which I attributed to the potential for beetles to enter the hive far easier through the largely unprotected bottom area as opposed to being fended off at the entrance.

Some local beekeepers in the Newcastle area were catching in excess of 50-100 beetles PER DAY in oil + water trays under mesh bottom boards from December through to May (eg. catching up to 700 beetles per week per hive). These big numbers show just how ineffective having just one SHB trap or bait inside a hive can be, as they will get full (or all the bait eaten) in no time and then your hive has far less defence against SHB. I had a silver

bullet fill up with beetles overnight in a single box hive, so much so that the majority of the beetles were unable to actually get to the poison bait and die, so they were still alive. Once bagged up and frozen there were hundreds of beetles in that trap, and just as many still running around inside the hive.

So what should commercial beekeepers in high beetle areas do in a year like this? Well in my opinion they should up their fight against the SHB enemy, or be financially and mentally prepared for some devastating hive and honey losses! I have already seen enough beetles in my own hives to know that unless I do something more than I normally would (and very quickly) that I am likely to lose a lot of my remaining hives (after most were euthanised in the Newcastle Red Zone).

This means MORE than normal, so after an Apithor in June-July I will now be aiming for at least one more Apithor soon (and another at the end of the year). I'm also using 2 traps in top bars below the excluder on each edge of the brood box and also traps in the honey supers. Please note that any traps in honey supers should only contain suitable oils, Ag Lime or Diatomaceous earth (DE), not Fipronil based products. Oils can cause headaches as they will spill out if the traps are tipped over (removing honey box or loading/moving hives), so many go for powder instead, although the kill rate is often lower and a crust forms that regularly needs scratching. Lower kill rate or effectiveness means that you need more of them, plus you need to have bees there to push the beetles into them! That means that my most important SHB job is managing brood boxes and keeping hives strong (and not swarming).

Those in the heavily infested SHB areas may go one step further and get mesh bottom-boards with trays, which can be highly effective at killing beetles. The down sides include being harder to use on pallets, need to refill oil/water every 2-3 weeks or scratch the Ag lime crust off the surface, can be messy when moving hives and also far more expensive than a basic "commercial" bottom board. That last point especially could be argued if your operation is being smashed by beetles and basically being held hostage by them (unable to do anything without everything turning to slime), as this more expensive bottom may allow you to operate more like "normal" and therefore pays for itself in no time.



SHB killed in a bottom tray with Ag lime. This type of defence is often required when keeping bees in SHB country (photo credit; Robert Ray, Central Coast NSW)



Hundreds of SHB screened out of 1 bottom tray that was in for 2 weeks. One internal SHB trap cannot handle loads like this. (photo credit; Robert Ray, Central Coast NSW).

By now there are beekeepers out there who are saying "this is too much work", "that all sounds way too expensive" or "how can I find time to do all of this extra stuff on my hives"...

Some of those comments are right (for them), because in their particular situations they may be running far too many hives and not be running their operation efficiently enough. Commercial beekeeping is a business, and as such you need to make economic decisions based on potential profits or losses (if you do or don't spend money and time to address an issue). Depending on your situation it may therefore be wise to reduce your hive numbers (or employ more skilled beekeepers) to enable more thorough management of remaining hives to reduce losses (both hives and financial) from SHB. You probably need to increase investment in SHB traps/ baits and get around your bees a bit more often too. Keeping bees tighter will reduce losses of capped honey sitting on hives, so storage of spare sticky supers may be a challenge for some this season who often run hives 5-6 high. The last thing they need is SHB smashing their stored stickies too!

The bottom line is that preventing SHB problems is WAY better (and more profitable) than cleaning SHB problems up after they occur, so keep this in mind with your beekeeping activities and management this season.



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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Junior Beekeeper Club

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North Coast Branch Update

Howdy everybody,

On the 29th of July, the North Coast Branch held a general meeting at Lismore Heights Bowls club. We had a large turn out of 60 members and guests. The presentation that night was given by Dr Cooper Schouten and was about Varroa Destructor.

This was a vary informative discussion and everybody learnt something new about Varroa and other exotic pests. There was many facts and research papers referred to by Dr Cooper which gave people lots to chew over.

As the presentation took most of the night up, we did not get time to discuss other issues!

Our next meeting will be held on 7th October at Casino RSM at 7.30pm. Any beekeepers in the area are more than welcome to attend.

Branch

Keep chasing that liquid gold!

Steve Fuller North Coast President



A Few Facts About a Beekeeper.....

Daniel Warman

When did I become a beekeeper?

In 2004 I started working bees with Shawn Sykes at Outback Honey. I worked for him for 8 years then bought hives of mine & started my own business.

Apiary home location?

Dubbo in the Central West.

Favourite hobby?

Fishing.

Do I do pollination, if so where?

Yes! Almond pollination in Victoria & NSW

What roles are you involved within the honeybee industry?

I am the Western Plains Branch President.

What are some of the challenges the next generation beekeepers will face?

I think the major challenges for not only the next generation, but this generation will be the regulation of the dumping of imported overseas honey & the latest varroa mite incursion.

Favourite honey?

Can't decide, I like both Green Mallee & Coolabah honey



What is your favourite season?

Winter because it's the off-season & I get to spend more time with my family & get to do some fishing.

Are you a queen breeder?

No not commercially but do breed queens for our own hives.

Favourite honey recipe?

Honey & cinnamon roasted almonds at Christmas time.

Wondering who the previous beekeepers were?

May / June - Tim Alt

July / August - Brett Bingley

n News





Southern Tablelands Branch

Southern Tablelands branch meeting
26th November 2022
Contact branch secretary Garth McClay for further
information
southerntablelandsbranch@nswaa.com.au

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

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

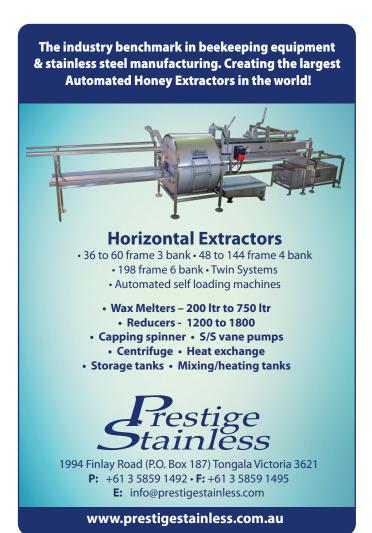
Our meeting dates are usually in the first week of February, May, August, and November each year. Lately our meetings have been held alternatively between Wagga Wagga and Griffith.

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 last Friday of January, March, May, July, September & November



BRANCHES	PRESIDENTS	SECRETARIES	EMAIL

DIVANCILES	IKESIDENIS	,	SECKETAKIE	3	LIVIAIL
Central Tablelands	Sam Lockwood	0477 460 642	Claire Bennett	0409 340 502	centraltablel
Hunter Valley	Col Wilson	02 4930 4950	Contact President		huntervalley
North Coast	Stephen Fuller	0488 434 498	Col Maloney	02 6663 7051	secretary.ncc
Northern Tablelands	Richard Willis	0428 323 812	Glenn McConnell	02 6732 3222	secretary.nta
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Southern Tablelands	Laurie Kershaw	0428 628 731	Garth McClay	0400 989 115	southerntablel
Sydney	Miskell Hampton	0437 913 831	Jane Flitter	0413 769 411	sydneybranc
Tamworth	Ray Hull	02 6760 3634	Norm Maher	0447 603 245	secretary.tan
Western Plains	Daniel Warman	0431 386 481	Shaun Sykes	0437 044 010	secretary.wp

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AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL (AHBIC)

Chairman: Stephen Targett CEO: Danny le Feuvre

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

Mailing address: PO Box 42 Jamison Centre Macquarie ACT 2614

AGRIFUTURES - Honeybee & Pollination

Annelies McGaw Manager

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AUSTRALIAN QUEEN BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (AQBBA)

Secretary: Mr Richard Simms, 40 Kyle Rd Murwillumbah NSW 2484 Ph: 0468 481 768 Email: AQBBA21@gmail.com

CROP POLLINATION ASSOCIATION (CPA)

Secretary: Mrs Debbie Porter, 135 Eusdale Road Yetholme NSW 2795 Ph: 0429 3785 383 Email: debbie.porter3@hotmail.com

HONEY PACKERS & MARKETERS ASSOCIATION (HPMAA)

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