



## AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

ABN 63 939 614 424

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# AHBIC Monthly News January/February 2020

*Enjoy reading this newsletter and learning about our work on behalf of your honey bee industry?  
If you haven't already become a Friend of AHBIC, we welcome you coming on board to help us!*

**CONTRIBUTE HERE**

*Or use the form at the end of this newsletter*



South Coast fires  
Photo credit: Therese Kershaw



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## 2020 AGM DATES

Bee Industry Council of WA	15 May, Mandoon Estate
New South Wales Apiarists Association	21-22 May, Tamworth
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	29-30 May, Venue TBC
South Australian Apiarists Association	11-12 June, Berri Hotel, Riverland
Queensland Beekeepers Association	11-13 June, Oaks Oasis Resort, Caloundra
Victorian Apiarists Association	2-4 July, Bendigo
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	VAA, 5 July, Bendigo

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# AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

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The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC)  
is the peak industry body for the Australian beekeeping industry  
working for all within our industry including  
honey producers, honey packers, pollinators, queen bee breeders, equipment manufacturers/suppliers

The following list recognises contributions received for the last 12 months.  
A number of generous contributors wish to remain anonymous. We encourage beekeepers to support those  
packers, queen bee breeders, equipment manufacturers/suppliers who contribute to AHBIC.

**Thank you to all our contributors & supporters. AHBIC appreciates your generous & ongoing support.**

## Friends of AHBIC – Voluntary Contributions

### PLATINUM PLUS (0)

#### PLATINUM (3)

Hive & Wellness Australia Pty Ltd  
Beechworth Honey Enterprises P/L  
When Bee Foundation

#### GOLD PLUS (4)

Australian Honey Products P/L  
Baker Beekeeping Pty Ltd  
Goldfield Honey Australia Pty Ltd  
Sterling Kershaw & Co

#### GOLD (7)

Amateur Beekeepers Assoc. NSW  
Cotton, Allan & Michelle  
Hampel, SJ & SM  
NSW Apiarist Association  
Weerona Apiaries  
Woolfe, BD & CA  
Zadow, IM & MJ

#### SILVER (23)

Australian Quality Honey (Blue  
Hills Honey)  
Bees Neez Apiaries  
Brenton, Daryl  
Boyd Apiaries Pty Ltd  
Cairns District Beekeeping Assoc  
Cooper, Casey  
Davies Apiaries  
Eastburn, Murray & Sandy  
Gells' Honey Maryborough  
Hampson, Terry (Daybreak Apiaries)  
Hooper Honey (Ben Hooper)  
Kuyan Apiaries  
Le Feuvre, Danny  
McDonald, Bob & Eileen  
McDonald, Peter & Michelle  
Mitchie, Robert & Raelene  
Pavy, Rod  
Porter, ML & DJ  
R. Stephens Apiaries  
Ruge Honey  
Victorian Recreational Beekeepers  
Association  
Warral Apiaries P/L  
Victorian Recreational Beekeepers  
Association

#### BRONZE (11)

Barnes Apiaries Pty Ltd  
Clarke, RK & KM  
Cunial Beekeeping Pty Ltd  
Heritage Honey (P. Norris)  
Holscher, Luke  
Ipswich & West Moreton  
Beekeepers  
Lutze, B&L  
Masters, Neil  
Mumford, Dave & Wendy  
Targett, Stephen  
Walkabout Apiaries

#### COPPER (24)

AB's Honey  
Ascot Veterinary Group  
Ballarat Regional Beekeepers  
Bee Scientifics (Jody Gerdt)  
Berry, Jessica  
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc.  
Clifford, David  
Cooper, Barry  
Frost, Liz  
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers  
Society  
Gustare Honey Australia  
Hoskinson, HL & HM  
Jordan, Corinne  
Kennett Apiaries (SA) Pty Ltd  
MacGibbon, Kevin  
Nairn, Mal  
Northside Beekeepers Assoc.  
Petratos, Aris  
Redpath's Beekeeping Supplies  
Sedgwick, Peter (Honeyworks P/L)  
Stokes, Peter  
Trigg, Margaret  
Weatherhead, Trevor & Marion  
Westlands Honey Beverley WA

#### OTHER (4)

Davey, Robin  
De Broun, Pauline  
Honeylife Australia  
Shaw, Robert

#### NON-PUBLISHED Value (16)

Australian Women in Beekeeping  
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping  
Supplies  
BeelInventive (Flow)  
Ecrotek  
Faithful, Mark  
Gilbert, Martin & Lorraine  
Geelong Beekeepers Club  
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers  
Hibberd, GL & HK, HSH Apiary  
Leemon, Diana  
Lewis, Peter  
Matsen, Jeff  
Moggill Honey  
Naicol Pty Ltd  
WA Pure Honey  
Watson, Jim

#### ANONYMOUS (13)

Did you expect your name to be  
listed here?

Please check your emails for a  
message from AHBIC inviting you to  
renew your contribution (AHBIC  
emails often end up in spam) or feel  
free to email [Sarah Paradise](mailto:Sarah.Paradise@ahbic.org.au).



## **NOTE FROM CHAIR, PETER McDONALD**

Hive Aid.

A long term, direct Aid program for beekeepers suffering from the impacts of drought and fires.

The program was set up late 2019 as the drought was really hitting hard through Queensland and northern NSW as well as parts of Victoria. We had also had the Queensland fires and the start of the Northern NSW fires. In hindsight the timing was perfect as no one could have foreseen the predicted that the need for such assistance would be so great. Fires continued all the way down the east coast of Australia, across into South Australia, devastating prime beekeeping floral resources. Western Australia was also battling fires that have impacted large swathes of good beekeeping country.

Hive Aid is a fledging aid program. It does not have the resources yet to be able to provide huge financial support, but it is targeted directly towards beekeepers and supporting us in times of need. It was set up under the control of Rural Aid as they are a professional aid organisation who understand farmers. Whilst it is still small it does have the capacity to build as more contributors come on board. It is similar to our Honey Bee industry, small, but with a big impact. We have the same hopes for Hive Aid. There is no time frame for Hive Aid, it will continue as long as there is a need for it, which could be a while given the loss of forest resource.

Personally, and on behalf of the Honey Bee industry, I would like to thank all who have donated to Hive Aid. Everyone who has is acknowledging the widespread and long-term difficulties that have been and will continue to be faced by those affected and the need to support them. Beekeeping is a vital part of our society and must not be allowed to fail.

I would especially like to thank 2 outstanding companies.:

1. Hive & Wellness. They have directly donated \$50,000 to the Hive Aid program. In addition, they are running an initiative whereby a portion of the price on sales of products continues to be injected into Hive Aid.

More importantly still, without their support, initiative and determination, the Hive Aid program would never have seen the light of day. AHBIC did not possess the resources to be able to set it up on their own and gratefully accepted the help from a great Friend of the Honey Bee industry to implement it from scratch.

2. OLAM Australia. This organisation has since provided the largest contribution to the program to date, donating \$100,000 to the support of beekeepers.

Both organisations are outstanding supporters of the whole industry through their significant and continued support. They both have significant beekeepers who provide pollination services and honey to them and they could have just as easily decided to support their own suppliers. However, they didn't. They chose to see the bigger need and support ALL beekeepers who require help. Thank you very much, I applaud your help to those in need.

Lastly, for those of you who have suffered from the long-term impact of drought and bushfire, please take advantage of this program. Register with Hive Aid for assistance, that's what it is there for. Even if you don't need it right now, register, because the impact may come later with the loss of future floral resources for a number of years as they recover.

If you need help with anything, please talk to AHBIC and we will endeavour to assist where we can. We want this Hive Aid program to be a great support to our Honey Bee community.

## NOTE FROM CEO, SARAH PARADICE

We hope that you are in an area that is receiving some of the recent wonderful rain. Many fires have been officially declared as extinguished which is wonderful news.

By all accounts, Associations of fire affected states have been successfully working hard for beekeepers, lobbying Government for assistance packages to help the industry recover and rebuild post fires. Likewise, AHBIC has been working hard at the Federal level to advocate on behalf of the beekeeping industry as well as with Agrifutures on other initiatives.

On 16<sup>th</sup> February, I was asked to attend a roundtable with other fire affected agricultural industries hosted by the then Minister for Agriculture, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie. The roundtable was also attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and briefly by the then Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management, David Littleproud. Each participant was asked to brief the roundtable on the impacts of the fires, the risks faced by the industry as a result, what industry is doing to help itself recover and where Government assistance could help the industry recover and build resilience for future fires/disasters. The bee industry was mentioned in Bridget McKenzie's opening and also in the Deputy PM's closing. Download and then open a brief video of Bridget McKenzie's opening by ctrl clicking the left photo below (it may take a few moments to load depending on internet).



Photo and video credit: Danielle Young

I prepared a briefing paper that was distributed to the then Minister, her advisors and the Department of Agriculture. Further roundtables are being organised by the Department of Agriculture for each industry to discuss in detail bushfire recovery programs and potential Government assistance. The bee industry roundtable was scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> February but due to the resignation of Bridget McKenzie and the appointment of David Littleproud as Minister for Agriculture, the roundtable has been postponed to a later date.

In the meantime, AHBIC is working with Agrifutures to host a workshop with experienced honey bee industry consultant Michael Clarke of AgEconPlus. Details are still being developed and finalised but the workshop is likely to be held in Canberra on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March. It will be an opportunity for Government to hear directly from fire affected beekeepers and to map a way forward for recovery and build resilience for future disasters. The pollination dependent industries will also be involved as well as Department of Environment for resource access.

We recently lodged a submission to Agrifutures for an industry communications plan and to implement one of the recommendations of the [Review of the Honey Bee Industry Levies and Fees](#) to compile a business case addressing the 12 principles for the Department of Agriculture and Environment requirement for a new pollination levy. This submission was provided in response to the Minister for Agriculture's election pledge of \$1.5million to be administered by Agrifutures. We presented to the Agrifutures panel on 4<sup>th</sup> February but unfortunately we were unsuccessful. Presently, there is widespread concern within the industry that, given honey production will be reduced as a result of drought and fires, this will have a direct impact on levies paid by commercial beekeepers. This will affect all the programs supported by levies such as Plant Health Australia's biosecurity program, Agrifutures research and development program and the Department of Agriculture's National Residue Survey.

AHBIC continues to work with Plant Health Australia (PHA) on the [National Bee Biosecurity Program](#) Review and we have sought feedback from SAG's, [BBO's](#) and other key stakeholders to address areas for improvement. PHA and AHBIC are also looking at options for beekeepers who are unable to complete the online [BOLT](#) course and we hope to be able to better equip BBO's to support those beekeepers experiencing problems. Thanks to PHA for their ongoing hard work and commitment to biosecurity for our industry.

#### **Recent meetings attended by CEO and/or AHBIC Executive**

- 11th Dec - EPPRD training for Sarah Paradice and new Qld/Vic BBO's
- 12th Dec – teleconference with Qld Biosecurity for update on AHB in Port of Townsville
- 10<sup>th</sup> Jan – teleconference Agrifutures re assistance for industry recovery
- 14<sup>th</sup> Jan – meeting re honey bee industry assurance system, Melbourne
- 16<sup>th</sup> Jan – Minister for Agriculture Roundtable, Australian Parliament House re impacts of bushfires
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jan – teleconference Minister McKenzie's advisors re Roundtable specifically for bee industry
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jan – teleconference Agrifutures re workshop for industry recovery
- 28<sup>th</sup> Jan - teleconference Agrifutures re workshop for industry recovery
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb – dinner with Agrifutures Honey Bee and Pollination Panel
- 4<sup>th</sup> Feb – presented to Agrifutures Honey Bee and Pollination Panel for communications and levy proposal. Remained at meeting for other presentations pitching for election promised \$1.5 million
- 6<sup>th</sup> Feb – AHBIC Executive teleconference meeting
- 7<sup>th</sup> Feb - teleconference Agrifutures re workshop for industry recovery
- 13th Feb – teleconference re PHA NBBP Review
- 14th Feb – National Varroa Mite Program – industry update from Qld Biosecurity
- 17<sup>th</sup> Feb - teleconference Agrifutures re workshop for industry recovery

#### **Upcoming meetings for CEO and/or AHBIC Executive**

- Date TBC - Roundtable for bee industry with Minister Littleproud. Was scheduled for 14th Feb but was postponed due to the resignation of Bridget McKenzie as Minister for Agriculture
- 23-24<sup>th</sup> March – Workshop for post bushfire industry recovery supported by Agrifutures
- Date TBC – meeting with Responsible Wood, PEFC re resource security and forest certification, likely March to coincide with AFPA quarterly meetings and Responsible Wood board meeting but may depend on AHBIC-Agrifutures workshop

## DROUGHT, FIRES AND EFFECT ON BEEKEEPERS

Please contact your own state association for details of assistance available to beekeepers affected by drought and fire. I know that NSWAA and QBA have been successfully working hard on your behalf to negotiate state specific assistance packages for your benefit. Links to some sources of assistance can be found below. Thanks to Jess Berry from Hive and Wellness for collating some of this information as well:

### National

- The Federal Government's [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement](#) is offering grants of up to \$75,000 to primary producers in areas affected by bushfires that have occurred from 31 August 2019. Call 1800 900 090.
- [FarmHub](#) - FarmHub connects Australian farmers to a range of helpful services and support. Farmers can now access even more information in one central location, with regional Climate Guides and a new training directory live on FarmHub. FarmHub is a Commonwealth Government initiative delivered by the National Farmers' Federation. Launched in January this year, FarmHub is the first national directory of support and assistance measures for farmers. It helps farmers navigate the complex maze of government and private sector support programs, to reduce stress at an incredibly stressful time.
- [Drought loans](#) - Help to prepare for, manage through, and recover from drought, Regional Investment Corporation
- More rural financial counsellors to support bushfire recovery has been announced - funding for 60 more rural financial counsellors and support workers will be made available to the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS). if you need help in assessing the financial position of your business, understanding what support might be available, and developing a plan to move forward, get in contact with your nearest RFCS office by calling 1800 686 175

### State: New South Wales

Primary Producers Assistance Guide for Beekeepers in NSW Rural Resilience Program. The NSW DPI Rural Resilience Program has staff across NSW and can provide support by way of referrals, liaising with other services and delivering initiatives tailored to a particular need. They work closely with other partners such as the NSW Rural Assistance Authority, Rural Financial Counsellors, the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) and the Local Lands Services. Extensive list of assistance with contact details [here](#)

[Rural-Resilience Program](#)

[NSW Disaster assistance](#)

Feed for bees - call the Agriculture and Animal Services Hotline on 1800 814

647 to register for assistance. There is also a special [Disaster Relief Grant](#) offering pollen subsidies. Please note, applications close for the pollen subsidies in July 2020.

Bee Sites - the NSW Government is waiving annual fees for existing beekeeping permits on public land. Contact [apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

[Primary Producers Assistance Guide for Beekeepers](#)

### State: Queensland

Jo Martin and QBA have successfully negotiated an assistance package for bees, well done Jo. There will be details made available about this shortly.

[Queensland natural disaster assistance](#)

[Queensland bushfire relief](#)





## Victoria

Agriculture Victoria have the following website: [Current incidents: Gippsland and North East fires recovery and response](#)

Grants are available to beekeepers affected by the 2019-2020 bushfire disaster events in 15 local government areas: Ararat, Alpine, Ballarat, East Gippsland, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Indigo, Mansfield, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Southern Grampians, Towong, Wangaratta, Wellington and Wodonga. For further information, and to apply, contact Rural Finance on 1800 260 425, visit [ruralfinance.com.au](http://ruralfinance.com.au) or email [governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au](mailto:governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au)

Bee sites - the Victorian Apiarists' Association (VAA) is coordinating the allocation of emergency apiary sites for beekeepers who have been affected by the recent devastating bushfires. Beekeepers who require an emergency apiary site should contact the VAA preferably by email [vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au](mailto:vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au) or by calling Aris Petratos on 0425 706 426.

Reporting losses - please report all hive and resource losses to Agriculture Victoria via 1800 226 226. Further information specific to fire affected beekeepers can be found [here](#).

## South Australia

A disaster recovery [payment](#), as well as a disaster recovery allowance can be found [here](#). Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) also have some assistance info [here](#).

## Western Australia

Contact can be made with Disaster Recovery Funding WA via [drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au) for information on support available.

## Health and Wellbeing

- Kids Helpline Tel. 1800 551 800 telephone counselling service 24 hours, seven days a week
- Community Mental Health Line Tel. 1800 011 511
- Mensline Australia Tel. 1300 789, 24 hours a day, 7-day telephone counselling for men
- Beyondblue information line. Tel. 1300 224 636
- Lifeline Tel. 131114
- Australian Red Cross - the Red Cross provides personal support during a disaster and an outreach service to affected households. Contact 1800 660 066 or (02) 49413200 in the Hunter area



South Coast fires  
Photo credit: Therese Kershaw



## AHBIC MEDIA RELEASE

AHBIC issued the following media release on 28 January 2020



**Australian Honey Bee  
INDUSTRY COUNCIL**

28 January 2020

# Media Release

## Time's up for bees

Continued and expanded access to public lands was identified in June as the number one concern across Australia by professional beekeepers and there is no more time for decision makers to delay.

Peter McDonald, Chair of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) said, 'The bee industry, like so many others, has been devastated by the fires and while I'm pretty sure that decision makers know the extent of the damage they don't necessarily understand the implications for our almond and avocado growers - even those that have not been burned out.

'No bees, means no pollination.

'Where honey-bees have escaped the blazes, they will starve before Spring unless urgent action by both industry and government is taken to save them,' said Peter.

Two-things need to happen, in order:

1. Hives need sugar syrup and pollen patties. These simulate pollen and can be used in the short-term to keep bees alive. They are expensive and Government subsidies would help. The NSW Department of Primary Industries has already provided a short-term food source of sugar supplements for bees in the affected fire areas. Even with supplements some mortality is expected because of the extended period. Pollen patties contain pollen-or a substitute. It should be noted that crops such as almond and avocado will provide pollen for some bees but only for the short period of flowering, not for the rest of the year.
2. Alternative nectar and pollen sources must be found and for this, access to National Park areas that have not been burned is vital. This is not a 12-month panacea, it will be an ongoing requirement for years to come as the natural bush regenerates.

Peter said, 'The AHBIC is seeking urgent action from the Federal Government to coordinate State Government land managers in providing immediate and ongoing access to unburned public land such as National Parks and State Conservation areas over autumn and winter.

'This is a national problem which threatens food crop production and will also lead to shortages of Australian honey,' said Peter.

Individuals and corporations can also help struggling beekeepers, sometimes referred to as Australia's "Forgotten Farmers". Hive Aid is a drought and bushfire relief campaign managed by Rural Aid, one of Australia's largest rural charities, Hive Aid contributes financial assistance and practical support to professional beekeepers impacted by the ongoing drought and bushfires and donations can be made at [https://www.ruralaid.org.au/donate/?supporter\\_id=14254](https://www.ruralaid.org.au/donate/?supporter_id=14254)

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) aims to ensure the long term economic viability, security and prosperity of the Australian Honey Bee industry in Australia.

Media Contact: Peter McDonald 0427 722 167 or [ahbic@honeybee.org.au](mailto:ahbic@honeybee.org.au)

[www.honeybee.org.au/](http://www.honeybee.org.au/)

**Healthy Forests = Healthy Bees = Healthy People**

## MORE ABOUT HIVE AID



An AHBIC endorsed aid program to help drought and fire affected beekeepers. We would like to acknowledge and thank two large donations from [OLAM](#) \$100,000 and [Hive and Wellness](#) \$50,000. We sincerely appreciate your support of the beekeeping industry in this time of crisis. We are currently working with Rural Aid to address some minor issues that have been reported through to us by a small number of you, so please bear with us as we iron out some teething problems.

Some facts about Hive Aid and why beekeepers need help:

### Q&A: What is 'Hive Aid'?

- Hive Aid is a drought and bushfire relief campaign aimed specifically at struggling beekeepers. Managed by Rural Aid, one of Australia's largest rural charities, Hive Aid contributes financial assistance and practical support to professional beekeepers impacted by the ongoing drought and bushfires, as well as raising awareness that this financial assistance is available.
- Hive Aid is overseen by peak industry body the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC). The campaign sits alongside other programs run by Rural Aid, which directs 100% of donations to causes it supports.
- The Hive Aid campaign provides a platform for all Australians to help support Australia's littlest livestock, bees, and the forgotten farmers, beekeepers, who care for them.
- Direct donations can be made via: <http://www.ruralaid.org.au/hiveaid>
- Professional beekeepers are encouraged to register for assistance via: <https://www.buyabale.com.au/can-we-help-you/> please ensure you indicate you are a beekeeper when filling in the registration form.
- All applications are treated with strict confidentiality by Rural Aid and will not be shared outside of Rural Aid.

### Q&A: Isn't there already drought assistance available for farmers?

- Aside from some indirect funding, fodder and freight subsidies, as well as waiving of national park permits and truck registration fees in NSW, there has not been any direct support or funding made available on a national scale for beekeepers registered as primary producers.

### Q&A: Are beekeepers really farmers?

- Absolutely. Too often these important primary producers are overlooked, which is why they have been referred to as Australia's "Forgotten Farmers".
- While the beekeeping industry is only a small sector, it has a big impact on the Australian agricultural industry via pollination of crops for many of our favourite foods as well as crops used to feed livestock such as lucerne.
- The contribution of honey bees to agriculture in Australia through pollination services has been estimated at up to \$20 billion annually.
- Like many primary producers, professional beekeeping businesses are often family-run with generations of beekeeping experience, history and wisdom passed on from one generation to the next. The exit of any beekeepers from the industry due to the difficult conditions would represent a significant ongoing loss to Australian agriculture.

### Q&A: What kind of assistance will Hive Aid provide?

- Hive Aid will provide financial assistance to professional beekeepers, helping to fund relief that may include, but is not limited to:
  - Bulk water for bees. An apiary of 100 hives can require over 1000 litres of water a week to cool the hives and maintain the colonies.
  - Supplementary feed to help maintain their bee colonies. This can include:
    - Pollen supplements which provide protein, to keep the bees strong

- Sugar syrup for energy, to sustain the bees when seasonal or environmental conditions do not provide this naturally
- Other nutritional supplements for key vitamin and minerals to help mitigate the occurrence of deficiencies. Liquid seaweed is a common supplement added to sugar feeding and provides an organic source of key minerals and essential trace elements that is usually obtained from floral nectar but is missing in sugar feed.
  - Fuel so they can transport water to their bees, or move bees away from bushfires or to better floral resources
  - Access to counselling services
  - Funds to restart colonies (buy queen bees with escorts, hive materials, nutritional supplements)
  - General cost of living support for those with low to no income coming in
- The amount and frequency of support is determined by Rural Aid on a case by case basis. Please contact Rural Aid on **1300 327 624** for more information.

**Q&A: When can applications be received?**

- Immediately. Any Professional beekeeper, registered as a primary producer and experiencing hardship due to the impact of drought or bushfire, is encouraged to register for assistance via: <https://www.buyabale.com.au/can-we-help-you/> please ensure you indicate you are a beekeeper when filling in the registration form.
- Applications have already been made by professional beekeepers, and support provided.

**Q&A: Who can apply?**

- Any professional Australian beekeeper, registered as a primary producer, who is currently impacted by drought and/or bushfires can seek immediate support through the Hive Aid campaign.
- Professional beekeepers experiencing hardship are encouraged to register for assistance here <https://www.buyabale.com.au/can-we-help-you/> please ensure you indicate you are a beekeeper when filling in the registration form.
- All applications go directly through Rural Aid are treated confidentially.

**Q&A: Is this assistance available for hobby and recreational beekeepers? Why not?**

- No. This assistance has been designed to support registered primary producers running beekeeping operations as their main source of income.
- Australia's hardworking professional beekeepers are the cornerstone of Australian agriculture, as many help pollinate important food crops that we all rely on. By supporting these forgotten farmers, we are working to help support the 'littlest livestock with the biggest impact'.

**Q&A: What makes someone a professional beekeeper?**

- Typically, beekeepers who care for 100+ hives are classified as Professional Beekeepers.
- There are a significant number of professional beekeepers in Australia, whose livelihoods are based on managing commercial-scale beekeeping operations. These primary producers make a living from producing honey and providing pollination services. While honey production is typically the main income source for their business, a large majority also offer pollination as a service. As such, they are also directly responsible for pollinating one third of everything that we eat.
- Australia's hardworking professional beekeepers are the cornerstone of Australian agriculture. By supporting these forgotten farmers we are doing the most we can to help support the "littlest livestock with the biggest impact".

**Q&A: What impact do beekeepers have on Australian Agriculture?**

- Professional beekeepers are the cornerstone of our agricultural industry. This is because many play a vital role in helping to pollinate important food crops for both humans and livestock, in addition to producing delicious Aussie honey from our rugged bushland.
- A large number of agricultural crops in Australia depend solely on bees for pollination. But there are also many other crops that benefit from bees and produce better yields when exposed to pollination by bees.
- Crops like nuts, apples, avocados, cherries, citrus, mangos, berries, cucumbers, kiwi fruit, pumpkins, melons, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflowers, celery and even clover and lucerne hay used for livestock rely heavily on pollination by bees.
- The contribution of honey bees to agriculture in Australia through pollination services has been estimated at up to \$20 billion annually.



**Q&A: Why do Professional Beekeepers need assistance?**

- Australia's professional beekeepers are our forgotten farmers. These important primary producers are often overlooked when it comes to the effects of drought, bushfire and other natural disasters. We need to support our "littlest livestock", honey bees, and the Australian beekeepers who care for them.
- Australian beekeepers are experiencing one of the toughest seasons on record thanks to drought and bushfires, with conditions only set to become worse in coming months. A scarcity of water and flowering trees mean honey production has fallen sharply, bee populations have suffered, and many honey bees are currently neither producing honey nor pollinating crops.
- Significant swathes of prime beekeeping country have already been lost across Australia with bushfires continuing to destroy much needed habitat relied on by professional beekeepers to support healthy bee colonies. Sadly, this impact will be felt for many years to come.

**Q&A: How do Professional Beekeepers care for their bees in times of drought and bushfire?**

- Many hardworking beekeepers are now having to resort to extreme measures to support their bee colonies, with the focus for many now switching to maintaining their hives rather than producing honey.
- Facing decimated floral resources, many beekeepers are resorting to supplementary feeding their bees to ensure they have the nutritional requirements they need to avoid starvation. Many are carting water to their hives and some beekeepers have even been forced to move their hives interstate to seek adequate floral resources for their bees.
- The cost of water and supplementary food to sustain the bees and the cost of fuel to transport hives to areas with more floral resources are an added burden to beekeeping businesses, putting livelihoods at risk.

**Q&A: Why do beekeepers need to provide bees supplementary feeding?**

- To be healthy, honey bees need:
  - water,
  - carbohydrates from honey, which is made from the nectar they have foraged,
  - protein from pollen that they also collect, and
  - key minerals and vitamins from nectar and pollen.
- When any of the above aren't readily available in the environment, beekeepers turn to supplement feeding to care for their bees. This is a costly investment but in times of drought and bushfire without this support the bee colonies are at risk of starvation.

**Q&A: Is Supplementary feeding of honey bees bad?**

- No. In fact, right now it is what is required to sustain many honey bee colonies. Just as other farmers supplementary feed cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry to ensure proper nutrition, beekeepers sometimes need to supply their bees with nutrition not otherwise available.
- Supplementary feeding bees is following proper animal welfare protocol.
- Seasonal effects, such as drought and even excessive rainfall, can significantly impact bee nutrition. Poor weather conditions and natural disasters can also negatively impact nectar and pollen production, which reduces the availability of food for bees to consume. This impedes the bees energy and protein absorption, causing nutritional deficiency in bees and greater susceptibility to bee health problems.
- Aside from water, bees need energy from carbohydrates (found in sugars) and strength from protein (found in pollen) to survive.
- When bees do not have energy from carbohydrates (found in sugars), they do not have the energy to forage for nectar and pollen. If forager/field bees cannot find the energy to collect more food the hive will continue to weaken, starve and eventually the colony will perish.
- When pollen is in short supply beehives may become deficient in protein. Protein deficiency is detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the bees and bee colonies. While not widely used unless in extreme circumstance, internationally sourced pollen is a last resort for beekeepers in promoting bee welfare.



## STATE ASSOCIATION UPDATES

### **QBA Update by Jo Martin**

Too few resources and insufficient time! Jo has not been able to write a report this edition, but rest assured this is because she has been working tirelessly with the QBA on behalf of Queensland beekeepers and has successfully negotiated a Government assistance package. This has only recently been announced and details will be made to Queensland beekeepers shortly. Please feel free to contact Jo on [gbainc@bigpond.com](mailto:gbainc@bigpond.com) if you need further information. For info, I've copied some of an email Jo distributed to QBA members on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb:

*I would like to provide further information relating to the Drought Assistance Scheme for Queensland Beekeepers. Please use the link to view the Queensland Beekeepers' media release [here](#).*

*It is important members understand, this package has been provided to industry to boost the health of the industry prior to the commencement of the 2019 pollination season. The State Government has and will enforce strict regulations on the expenditure of funds within this package.*

*Final details of the package are yet to be finalised. QBA will be working with the Drought Assistance Scheme and other involved departments to complete the remaining work required to roll out this package.*

*Further information will be provided to QBA members as soon as possible.*

*We share your excitement and enthusiasm about the announcement made on Monday. It is believed that the volume of funds provided by the scheme to assist the industry in its recovery from the drought is of unprecedented value.*

*For those beekeepers who are in need of urgent assistance I ask that you make contact with the team from Hive Aid as soon as possible. Hive Aid is ready to provide financial and well being assistance to beekeepers doing it tough. I must reiterate that distribution of the funds remains confidential, and should you require some assistance in completing the online application I am more than happy to provide assistance.*

*Registrations for Hive Aid assistance can be made using the link below:*

<https://www.buyabale.com.au/can-we-help-you/>

*Lastly, it is pleasing to see the return of summer rains. Although it may have provided a dramatic change to the colours of our landscape, we appreciate that the road ahead for the industry will continue to be rocky for some time yet. Let us all hope that the change in the weather patterns is here to stay providing stability for our industry.*

*Kind regards, Jo Martin, QBA Secretary*

News hot off the press is that the QBA will host their conference this year on the 11-13 June at Oaks Oasis Resort in Caloundra.

### **NSWAA Update by Stephen Targett**

NSWAA has had a meeting with the Minister for Agriculture the Hon Adam Marshall and his staff. Meetings with other ministers have been requested.

The following is what NSWAA asked for in support from the government to survive in the short term and to support the almond industry.

Temporary (10-20 years) access to public lands - National Parks, water boards, state water, nature reserves, Snowy Hydro. His staff will explore these options.

Sugar syrup subsidies (50%) and pollen and pollen substitute subsidies (50%) for all beekeepers through until late July 2020. Subsidies to include those that have not lost bees to fires but have had their resource burnt.

Transport subsidies of above as is now the case.

An annual admin fee (small - i.e. \$10 per site) for burnt sites until they have recovered enough to support bees.

NSW has had 7,000 hives burnt. Two northern tablelands beekeepers had hives burnt in the Eden area.

## **BICWA & WAFarmers Beekeepers Section Update**

### **Combined Chairman/President Report – Brendon Fewster, Stephen Fewster**

Welcome to 2020, we wish all readers a healthy, safe and prosperous 2020.

First of all, we offer our sincere thoughts and condolences to everyone affected by the recent bushfires. We are saddened to hear about the losses of lives, homes and communities. The numbers of lost hives and bees are devastating as is the impact and loss of flora, fauna and wildlife. Our thoughts are with you.

The honeyflow here in the West continues and keeps our beekeepers busy. This has meant not a lot of time available to discuss industry matters.

As a result of a previous meeting held with DBCA (Parks and Wildlife) in November last year, we have now been invited to discuss issues such as the clearing permits and prescribed burns with Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Environment. BICWA and representatives from WA Farmers and WABA will attend the meeting on the 28th January.

Brendon Fewster has commenced discussions with beekeepers and Qantas Perth to send packages with bees to support fellow beekeepers in the eastern states. Everyone who would like to get involved or needs more information can get in contact with [info@bicwa.com.au](mailto:info@bicwa.com.au)

On the 8th December 2019, BICWA organised a successful Xmas windup at Riverbank Estate in the Swan Valley. Attendees from all organisations and research teams were attending. A big thanks goes to Leilani for organising.

WA Farmers, Beekeeping Section first meeting for 2020 is planned to be held in February. BICWA continues to hold monthly meetings with the February one including invited guests from the Apiary section, Fire Management Services division and the new Agribusiness Development consultant at the Dept of Agriculture.

BICWA conference committee is forging ahead with the agenda and development for the 2020 conference to be held at Mandoon Estate on Friday May 15th.

### **NEW SEGMENT! BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER UPDATE**

Each month we are hoping to bring you an update from one of our BBO's. This edition Ally Driessen from Agriculture Victoria has been kind enough to find time in her busy work schedule to write a report on recent BBO activities in Victoria – read all about it below. Thank you for your report Ally!

Ally Driessen,  
Bee Biosecurity Officer  
Agriculture and Biosecurity Services, Agriculture Victoria

At the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020, Victoria's Bee Biosecurity Officer has focused on bee biosecurity and disease and pest risk mitigation, through:

- Supporting beekeepers who have notified the department about pests, diseases and bee deaths. These are mostly cases of suspected American Foulbrood (AFB) and chalkbrood.
- Supporting councils (through the [Apiary Code of Practice](#)) in regard to members of the public enquiring about beekeeping on neighbouring properties.
- Providing [guidance](#) to beekeepers as to what they can and can't do during declared fire danger periods and guiding beekeepers affected by fires to get support.



Ally Driessen, Vic BBO



- Enhancing Victoria's new digital platform; [BeeMax](#). This application will achieve improved measurement, analysis and reporting of Victorian honeybee health data but more importantly the platform will enable registered apiarists to log compliance, surveillance and emergency preparedness activities.
- Preparation for State Quarantine Response Team (SRQT) training which will be rolling out March 2020.
- Digitalising the Sugar Shake Program through BeeMax.
- Preparing beekeeper requirements for almond pollination 2020. Focusing on pre-pollination beekeeper auditing and planning for the almond pollination field day with the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) – Beekeepers Branch.

#### Things to focus on this month:

- Check, feed and super up your hives.
- Check for AFB before removing any honey.
- If you are extracting honey in a built-up area, place the stickies back on the hives after dark for the bees to clean out or re-fill.
- Collect pooled honey sample and send off for testing – call Gribbles for your honey culture test kit 1300 307 190.

#### Reminders:

- Apiarists affected by the East Gippsland and North East/Upper Murray fires should report any destroyed or damaged hives to us on 1800 226 226 (select option '0' then '4' to speak with an operator) to help us understand the damage to the apiary industry and tailor assistance to beekeepers as quickly as possible. Assistance available to beekeepers whose hives were impacted by fires is listed in a factsheet which can be found [here](#). For more information on the bushfire recovery visit [Agriculture Victoria's](#) website.
- Residential beekeepers: follow the Apiary Code of Practice to ensure your bees don't become a nuisance to surrounding people, property and domestic animals. Open communication between you and your neighbours is vital to a harmonious relationship.
- If you suspect a [notifiable pest or disease](#) you must notify an Agriculture Victoria Apiary Officer via the Customer Service Centre on **136 186** or email: [honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au)
- Update your sugar shake test results by logging into BeeMax here: [bees.agriculture.vic.gov.au](https://bees.agriculture.vic.gov.au)

#### Victorian industry statistics as of keep up January 2020:

- 9,356 registered beekeepers (increasing daily)
- 124,187 bee hives in Victoria.
- Overwhelming majority of new beekeepers are in the 1-5 hive category with a total of 8,277.

**Table 1:** Victorian industry statistics as of January 2020

Category	Number of beekeepers	Number of hives
1 - 5	8277	18096
6 - 50	854	17947
51 - 500	173	35456
501 - 1000	30	25100
1001+	22	27588
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,356</b>	<b>124,187</b>



Victorian Apiary team during Almond Operation 2019

## DROUGHT/FIRE AFFECTED BEE MANAGEMENT, Doug Somerville

Please find below bee management information from Dr Doug Somerville that may be helpful for drought and bushfire affected beekeepers.

### Impacts of drought and fires:

- Smoke can disorientate field bees
- Heat from fires, or high temperatures, can kill field bees
- Lack of water, nectar and/or pollen can kill bees and colonies, or seriously compromise the ability of colonies to expand in population.

### Bee Management

#### 1. Water

- the number one essential ingredient for colonies to survive hot weather (35°C+)
- stronger colonies may consume up to **one** litre per day
- water must be within 200 metres of the apiary
- place hives near clean water source, or place water container in apiary
- do not let containers run out of water
- place floaties in container (sticks etc.), otherwise bees will drown when collecting water
- most field bees will be collecting water when temperatures reach the late 30's and into the 40°C

#### 2. Nectar

Question: Have bees got sufficient stored honey?



*Starved bees*

Answer: YES – either don't worry, or feed 1:1 (water:sugar) in small amounts (1 to 2 litres) once or twice a week to stimulate breeding, if that is the desired outcome.

Answer: NO – feed sugar.

- Dry sugar 1 to 2 kg per hive.
  - doesn't stimulate colonies
  - unused sugar can be retrieved and used elsewhere when required
- Thick syrup = stores 1:2 (water:sugar)
  - usually 5 to 10 litres per feed



**Dry sugar in framer**

- once or twice, a week or two apart or until the colony does not store any more syrup
- Thin syrup = stimulation 1:1 (water:sugar)
  - usually 1 to 2 litres per feed
  - once or twice a week



**NOTE:** Never feed honey!

- expensive
- makes bees aggressive (robber stimulus)
- high HMF levels with older honey are toxic to bees
- carrier of disease pathogens – AFB, EFB, chalkbrood and nosema

**Nectar - Feeding methods**



*Kitty litter feeder*



*Bottle feeder on nuc*



*Top feeder enclosed*

- In hive
  - higher labour component requires a feeder per hive
  - failure of the colony to take up the syrup usually indicates a problem with the queen
  - weak hives are given more sugar per bee than strong colonies (tailor quantities of syrup per hive), i.e. individual hive management
  - need for each feeder to be cleaned after each use
- External
  - the syrup collected by colonies is in proportion to the number of field bees in the colony. More bees = more syrup
  - bees drown in open feeder (floaties important, also applies to in-hive open feeders)
  - quicker to feed more bees with a single large external feeder per apiary, rather than providing syrup on a per colony basis
  - syrup available to 'all' bees in flying distance of the feeder (may not be a suitable method in urban environments or where there are high numbers of feral bee colonies or other apiaries in close proximity)



**Sugar syrup into frame feeder**



**Open feeder, note straw to prevent bees drowning**



- important to prevent livestock from drinking syrup in open feeders as this could be fatal to the livestock

**NOTE:** There is no evidence that communal feeders spread bee diseases

#### 4. Pollen

Drought has a particularly big impact on fresh pollen available to colonies with the elimination of flowering herbs, pasture and weeds. Colonies will continue to breed while ever nectar and or syrup (1:1) is available to stimulate the colony.

Fresh pollen is consumed first by the colony. A reduction or elimination of fresh pollen will cause the colony to consume previously stored pollen.

Once the pollen stores are depleted, the colony will decline in population and eventually die.

Subtle effects can be experienced by a single pollen source being deficient in one or more nutritional essential elements.

FRESH IS BEST

STORED IS SECOND BEST

(past this point !? ☹)

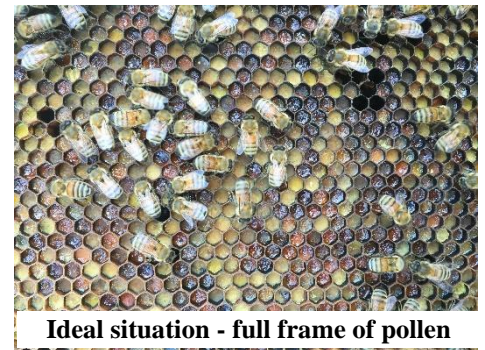
#### 5. Pollen – feeding methods

Supplementary protein or pollen feeding:

- multitude of formulations
- full nutritional requirements of bees is scientifically unknown
- usually expensive

Feed either in hive (usually patties) or open feeder.

- In hive
  - place patties (pre-made) directly on top of brood combs and under queen excluder
  - check every week to see if they have been consumed
  - some debate about bees removing patties because of the location they have been placed in the hive
  - patties usually made with a protein source, other ingredients and either irradiated honey or sugar syrup (some debate if bees consume the patties for their carbohydrate rather than protein)
  - colonies that fail to consume patties usually are queenless or have a poor performing queen
  - small hive beetles can be a problem with larvae sliming the pattie
- Open feeder
  - place in an open container
  - a crust often forms over the powder
  - keep livestock and wildlife away by placing a wire grid guard over the feeder



**Ideal situation - full frame of pollen**

**NOTE:** Bees usually perform for two generations (six weeks) on supplement alone and then may decline. Bee collected pollen (if nutritionally balanced) does not have this negative effect.

- Fresh ingredients important, fats oxidise, vitamins deteriorate and protein degrades  
Would you eat it?  
Yes – feed to bees  
No – throw it away!
- Volumes to feed dictated by bees
- Attractiveness of supplement to bees very important

## 6. Ask the question(s)

- What is the current condition of my bees; population, stored honey and pollen, availability of flowering plants to collect nectar and/or pollen and closeness to water source?
- Do I want to build populations, hold populations or reduce the number of bees in a colony?
- Expense of buying individual feeders or bulk feeders?
- Availability of sugar (dry or syrup) and pollen/protein supplements/substitutes and their cost.
- Is your strategy going to be cost effective?
- What is your objective short, medium and long term?

## 7. Further reading:

1. *Fat Bees, Skinny Bees* Agrifutures <https://www.agrifutures.com.au/product/fat-bees-skinny-bees-a-manual-on-honey-bee-nutrition-for-beekeepers/>
2. *Feeding sugar to honey bees* – NSW DPI  
[https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/532260/Feeding-sugar-to-honey-bees.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/532260/Feeding-sugar-to-honey-bees.pdf)



South Coast fires  
Photo credit: Therese Kershaw



## VALE – HAROLD AYTON

### Harold Charles Ayton

19.01.1936 – 30.01.2020

Harold Ayton passed away on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Mt St Vincent's Nursing Home, Ulverstone. Harold was a Life Member of the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association since 1998. He was a member since 1954 and Secretary/Treasurer from 1965 – 1975 and again 1993 – 2002.

Harold became an Apiary Inspector for Tasmania in 1976 and updated the book 'Beekeeping in Tasmania'. He retired from his position as Apiary Inspector in 1992.

Harold was for many years Secretary of the FCAAA and also received the Goodacre Award, pictured below.

Thoughts are with Harold's family at this sad time and we note our sincere thanks for his significant contribution to the beekeeping industry.





## SEASONAL NOTES – JANUARY 2020

by Bob McDonald, Victoria

December rainfall has been higher than normal with some rain on the first of the month, and more general rain over several days after the first week, extending and finishing towards the middle of the month. This mid-December rain was very general across the State, with the North West Mallee receiving some heavy falls i.e. Ouyen 50mil+, Mildura 44mil, and 30mil+ in several other places.

Total rainfall for the year has been mostly below average, except for South Western Victoria, which had well above average. The upper North East, which received some very heavy falls in the mid-December rains, but their annual totals are still below long-term averages.

At Castlemaine, we are showing 90-100mil below our long-term average; or to put this into percentage terms, 17% below average.

Red Gum (*Euc. camaldulensis*) the patch budding on Red Gum resulted in not much more than a good breeding flow, with hives generally gaining a little weight.

Yellow Box (*Euc. melliodora*) the light flowering is much the same, with a dribble of nectar secretion on the hotter days towards the end of December. Yellow Box will most likely continue flowering well into January, but is not expected to yield much surplus.

Flat Weed – there is a heavy flowering and this is providing a pollen flow.

Blackberries – in the higher elevations are providing good breeding conditions and, in some places, bee hives are gaining honey.

Future – The mid December rain through the Mallee could be of assistance to the Little Red Mallee (*Euc. leptophylla*), which is due to flower from mid-January onwards.

There have been some reports of bud drop on the Red Stringy Bark (*Euc. macrorhyncha*). I don't know if this is wide-spread, or will have much effect on the flowering. These reports were prior to the mid December rains and could have been due to the dry conditions at the time.

Grey Box (*Euc. microcarpa*) Buds have been very evident on Grey Box since early December. All Grey Box trees carrying new growth seem to be showing buds.

In the North West of the Box-Iron Bark forests, except for some new growth along the roads there is nil new growth on all Eucalypt species i.e. Grey Box, Iron Bark (*Euc. tricarpa*), and Yellow Gum (*Euc. leucoxydon*), and therefore no possibility of any bud set.

This whole forest district (which I have always referred to as the Bealiba Forest District) i.e. North West of Dunolly, stretching from Moliagul across to St Arnaud is looking very drab.

It appears the extreme September weather was worse through here and there was not enough rain and mild weather through October for the trees to recover.

Last month I reported that Iron Bark was also showing copious new growth. This new growth has only eventuated in the damper places and is not wide-spread.

Grey Box seems to be the only tree that has been able to cope with the variability of the recent rainfall pattern. This then comes back to a suggestion I put forward some months ago. To improve our future crop forecasting we need to start measuring sub-soil moisture levels, and over time, be able to couple these with current rainfall patterns to determine what individual tree species in any particular forest need to respond favourably for our bees' benefit. This comes back to the question "is there any need to attempt to forecast ahead, or should we just let things happen naturally?"

I have spent 60+ years studying the flowering patterns of our trees and trying to predict ahead how they are going to behave. I do feel this has often put money into my pocket.

I think, with us entering into a drier overall weather pattern than the overall weather patterns of the last 50 years, it is more important than ever to get behind some kind of formal research. I am too old to figure out all the changes we need to adopt to accurately forecast ahead, but I think if we set our minds to it we could have a good try.

Reading through this and other reports, because of the time taken to get this information to you through the ABJ, a great deal of what I am saying should be sent out via Email for currency sake. Anyway, the important thing is – there is sufficient budding on the Grey Box so that if beekeepers are careful, we should be able to produce an autumn crop of honey.

## EXTENSIONAUS

Ensure you make the most of these informative [ExtensionAUS](#) resources! More have recently been uploaded so please utilise these free resources:

- [Bushfire and drought recovery for beekeepers](#)
- [Keeping out killer bees](#)
- [Are your hives registered?](#)
- [Mental health for beekeepers](#)
- [Pollination networks](#)
- [Labelling](#)

## GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS – AUSTRALIA

- [Buzz off honey industry, our national parks shouldn't be milked for money](#), The Conversation, 24 Feb 2020
- [The Devastation of the Kangaroo Island Bushfires](#) - The Bush Bee Man, YouTube, 17 Feb 2020
- Make a submission to the bushfire inquiry - NSW Government - If you would like to make a submission to the NSW government Bushfire Enquiry, please follow the link [here](#)
- [Capilano owner says beekeepers "devastated" by bushfires](#), Inside FMCG, 7 Feb 2020
- Two events will be held in early March for macadamia and avocado growers who are passionate about pollination and are looking for ways to improve productivity and support the natural ecosystems on their farms. As part of the "Stingless bees as effective managed pollinators for Australian horticulture" project, native bee specialists will be presenting the field days to help Macadamia and Avocado growers understand the role native bees and other pollinators have in crop pollination. [Get the latest buzz via 2 free field days](#), Australian Tree Crop, 6 Feb 2020
- Agrifutures have now uploaded a report from the AHBIC resource workshop held in Tasmania in June/July 2019 for your access: [Strategic Industry Workshop: Improving floral resource access for beekeepers](#)
- Get behind this initiative in 2020! Garnering support across Australia to protect plants from pests and diseases is the aim of the launch of the International Year of Plant Health at Parliament House, Canberra on 6 February 2020. See media release from Plant Health Australia, [Launch of the International Year of Plant Health in Australia](#), 6 Feb 2020
- A reminder for beekeepers to be vigilant when using smokers. A fire that threatened homes and shut down the Canberra Airport was accidentally caused by beekeepers working on a biosecurity program. This work was not undertaken on a total fire ban day. [Canberra bushfire that shut down airport and threatened homes was accidentally caused by beekeepers](#), ABC News by Jake Evans, 5 Feb 2020
- [Scientists modify honey bee gut bacterium to fight colony collapse-causing Varroa mite and deformed-wing virus](#), ABC Science News by Nick Kilvert, 31 Jan 2020
- If anyone would like to contact Jack Stone from NZBeeswax and [www.beeswax.co.nz](http://www.beeswax.co.nz) about information regarding Megabee Patties, look under under product, health and nutrition [jackstone@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jackstone@xtra.co.nz) He may be able to assist in providing pollen patties
- Southern Tablelands branch hosted a very successful Mini Field Day on Supplementary Feeding of Bees on Saturday 22nd February 2020 at Gundaroo in NSW. Guest speaker was Dr Juliana Rangel - Associate Professor of Apiculture. Department of Entomology and Interdisciplinary Program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Texas A&M University, USA on Effects of agrochemical exposure during development on the reproductive health of honey bee, queens and drones. Thanks to the Kershaw's for hosting this informative event.
- Since November, bushfires have raged in the Yorke Peninsula, the South East, the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island. PIRSA said 978 hives were destroyed, along with nearly 10,000 kg of honey [Bushfires](#),

[drought affecting more than half of South Australia's farmers](#), ABC Rural News by Isabella Pittaway, 25 Jan 2020

- Emeritus Professor Adrian Horridge traces the history of our understanding of insect vision and proposes something new. He says his experiments show that honey bees see just one colour, blue. But they also see changes in contrast. He also has ideas of how bees communicate and indicate where food can be found. [New ideas on how bees see](#), ABC, The Science Show by Robyn Williams, 18 January 2020
- [Farmers to gain access to \\$75,000 grants to help with bushfire recovery](#), ABC News 15 Jan 2020
- [Bushfire-affected beekeepers appeal for more access to unburnt national parks](#), ABC Rural by Sarina Locke, Kelly Fuller and Jessica Clifford, 10 Jan 2020
- [Bushfire, Drought And Vandalism Halt NSW Honey Production](#), 10 Daily, 9 Jan 2020
- Apiarists estimate about 1,000 of Kangaroo Island's hives have been burnt in bushfires on the "bee utopia" [Kangaroo Island fires ravage "bee utopia"](#) ABC Rural News, 7 Jan 2020
- [Beekeepers face lean future in fire aftermath](#) RIOTACT
- [Manuka honey and impact of fire on ecosystems](#), The Science Show, ABC Radio National, 5 Jan 2020
- [Save the bees-Ballina councillor calls for insecticide spray to stop](#), ABC Radio Breakfast, 4 Jan 2020
- [Go West! AgriFutures Honey Bee & Pollination Advisory Panel heads to Western Australia](#), 2 Jan 2020
- A reminder: to ensure the NSW beekeeping industry is adequately protected from biosecurity threats, from 1 July 2020, all NSW beekeepers need to ensure they manage their hives in line with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice. Watch this [Facebook video](#) to see what this means for you. For more information, visit [website](#)

#### **MEDIA RELEASES**

- [Time's up for bees](#), Continued and expanded access to public lands was identified in June as the number one concern across Australia by professional beekeepers and there is no more time for decision makers to delay, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, 28 Jan 2020

#### **GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS – INTERNATIONAL**

- [Selection Methods for Honey Bee Breeding](#), Washington State University
- [The Varroa destructor mite is the greatest threat to US honeybees, and why things could get worse](#). Genetic Literacy Project
- Israeli agritech startup Edete Precision Technologies for Agriculture has completed field trials in almond orchards in Israel using its mechanical pollen harvesting and pollination system, [Edete's pollination technology for almond market in California and Australia](#), Tree Crop, 17 Jan 2020

#### **NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS**

Please see link to the [APVMA website](#) to view all information from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines (APVMA) Gazette which is published fortnightly and contains:

- details of the registration of agricultural and veterinary chemical products and other approvals granted by the APVMA
- notices as required by the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code (the Agvet Code) and related legislation
- a range of regulatory material issued by the APVMA.

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# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

ABN 63 939 614 424

PO Box 42, Jamison Centre, Macquarie ACT 2614

[ahbic@honeybee.org.au](mailto:ahbic@honeybee.org.au)

Ph: 0402 467 780

[www.honeybee.org.au](http://www.honeybee.org.au)

## Friends of AHBIC Voluntary Contribution Form

Supporting Australia's national beekeeping industry with a voluntary contribution

Please complete this form and return by email to [ahbic@honeybee.org.au](mailto:ahbic@honeybee.org.au) or PO Box 42 Jamison Centre, Macquarie ACT 2614

Friend Category	Investment	Friend Category	Investment
Platinum Plus	\$60,000 & above	Silver	\$1,000 - \$1,999
Platinum	\$20,000 - \$59,999	Bronze	\$500 - \$999
Gold Plus	\$5,000 - \$19,999	Copper	\$100 - \$499
Gold	\$2,000 - \$4,999	Other	\$0 - \$99

### Contribution Details

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....State.....Postcode.....

Email: (Please PRINT clearly).....

Phone: ..... Date: .....

### Payment Method

Amount: \$.....

#### 1. EFT Deposit (preferred payment method)

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Bendigo Bank

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

3. **CREDIT CARD:** Online at <https://honeybee.org.au/friends-of-ahbic-voluntary-contribution/>

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  - undisclosed** monetary category YES / NO
  - do **not** publish my name YES / NO
- I would like to be notified when the AHBIC Annual Report is available online YES / NO
- Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a Tax Receipt (email only) YES / NO

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