BUZZWORD

Beekeepers' Society of South Australia Inc.

www.bees.org.au

NEWSLETTER

Edition 108

January 2021

Correspondence to:

The Secretary
Beekeepers' Society of SA Inc
PO Box 283
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Many thanks to those who provide articles for the newsletter.

Contributors:

Bob Beer
Trevor Greenfield
Trisha Blanks
Susan Speck

BUZZWORD

(The Beekeepers' Society Newsletter)
Articles are always being sought by the editor for inclusion in the newsletter. Please feel free to email or write in and provide any interesting experiences about the management of your hives.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the newsletter please contact:

Barbara Horwood, editor, on 8296 8478
email: horwoodmb@internode.on.net

WEBSITE:
www.bees.org.au

See us on **FACEBOOK. Go to www.facebook.com/beekeeperssa/**

You can view a host of interesting material, photos and comments - you can "like" us and leave a comment of your own.

Equipment/Extractor Officers:

Eugene McEwen	*(North)*	8261 0514
Susan Lonie	*(South)*	0417 811 067
Trisha Blanks	(*Central)*	0437 713 790

CONTENTS:

2020-2021 Office Bearers:

President:	Susan Lonie
Vice-President	Adrian Makarowsky
Treasurer:	Phil de Courcey
Secretary: Trisha Blanks	0437 713 790
office@bees.org.au	

Committee Members:
Sandra Ullrich
Josh D'Ambrosio
Trevor Greenfield

Minute Secretary: Julie King

Co-ordinators

Website:	James Field
Facebook:	Phil de Courcey

Beeginners' and Intermediate Group
John Silverblade, Roy Frisby-Smith, Ulrich Schade, Grant Gotley

Junior Beekeepers: Alexis and Joel Hayes

Librarian: Sue Speck

Supper Team: Melissa Hooper and John Elliot

Committee Meetings
Third Monday of each month, 7 pm, at Kensington.

General Meetings

General meetings are held at Burnside Civic Centre Hall, 401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore on the **first MONDAY of each month at 7.30 pm**

Supper is available (gold coin donation).

General meetings have resumed in person at the Burnside Civic Centre following relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions.

Livestream meetings from past months can still be viewed via the BSSA website or Facebook.

BEEGINNERS' AND INTERMEDIATES EDUCATION
STARTS AT 6.30 PM
(BEFORE THE START OF MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING)

Teaching sessions commence at 6.30 pm for beginner beekeepers to participate in an hour of question-and-information exchange prior to the start of the main monthly general meeting. Participants need to register in advance. See page 7 for more information.

BSSA Apiary Site

The BSSA hives are located at:
Selgar Avenue, Clovelly Park - about 200 metres west off South Road and behind the Tonsley Hotel.

The BSSA hive is situated at the SA Museum on North Terrace is currently not available for viewing by the public.

Department of Primary Industries (PIRSA)
Project Coordinator, Apiaries:
Michael Stedman - 8429 0872

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due as from 1st July each year. The membership fee for the financial year commencing 1 July 2020 is:

$65 single
$35 junior
$100 family (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children). Any additional child/member $20.

Membership application and renewal forms can be downloaded from the link found on the Beekeepers' Society of SA website (www.bees.org.au)

Queen colours
Last digit of the year
0 or 5: Blue
1 or 6: white
2 or 7: yellow
3 or 8: red
4 or 9: green

Field Days

Practical aspects of beekeeping will be demonstrated on a number of occasions during the year. Please refer to Buzzword Field Days page and the BSSA website for details.

The field days are a must for all new beekeepers.

MENTOR LIST

A mentoring service is available to our new beekeepers who would like assistance at home. Please contact the BSSA secretary for more information.

BSSA SWARM LIST

If any BSSA member is interested in having their name as a swarm collector listed on the BSSA website please contact either Trisha Blanks (BSSA Secretary) or Sandra Ullrich at sullrich@aapt.net.au

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EXTRACTORS AVAILABLE FOR USE BY MEMBERS

A reminder that three extractors, uncapping trays and wiring gigs are available for use on loan to financial members.

Contacts:

Eugene McEwen	*(North)*	8261 0514
Susan Lonie	*(South)*	0417 811 067
Trisha Blanks	(*Central)*	0437 713 790

They must be returned in a clean and undamaged state. Please report any concerns/damage

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VALE – GORDON TELFORD

Gordon Telford passed away peacefully on Friday 2 October 2020.

Gordon was born in Clermont, Queensland and his family moved to South Australia when he was a small child. He completed his high school education in Perth and after graduating became a draftsman for Western Australia's railways and he was also in the army reserves.

Following this period of his life he started his own electrical contracting business which included large-scale projects throughout WA and he went on to own and operate gold mines in North Western Australia.

Gordon was a man of many talents and owned a cattle and yabbie farm near Barmera, South Australia, where he welcomed his first grandchild.

In his later years, Gordon was an avid beekeeper and was involved in many aspects of beekeeping in South Australia. He was especially proud to be able to contribute to the rehabilitation of the Salisbury wetlands, where he had a number of beehives. Gordon also installed the first beehive on the Adelaide Showground Rooftop.

He particularly enjoyed sharing his knowledge of bees and helping younger generations understand the importance of bees in the environment.

MEMBERS' LUNCH

All members are welcome to join the regular lunch group which will meet at the Rising Sun Hotel, Bridge Street, Kensington on the 2nd Thursday of each new season, ie Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring.

The next lunch is scheduled for Thursday, 11 March.

It is imperative that intending participants contact Bob Beer in advance (0413 208 835)

FIELD DAYS

(Practical Beekeeping)

HIVE INSPECTIONS

PROGRAM OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE BSSA HIVES

Honey extraction as required

The BSSA hives are located at:
Selgar Avenue, Clovelly Park - about 200 metres west off South Road and behind the Tonsley Hotel

Field days have resumed under a COVID-Safe plan. Information is available on the BSSA website.

All participants must have at least long sleeves, long-leg trousers and a head veil. Attendance is limited to 15 persons.

Saturday	20 February Time: 1 pm
Wednesday	3 March Time: 1 pm
Saturday	20 April Time: 1 pm
Wednesday	31 March Time: 1 pm
Saturday	24 April Time: 1 pm

Bookings can be made only through the BSSA secretary or Bob Beer at beersbees@bigpond.com or mobile 0413 208 835. Cost - $10.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED to assist new beekeepers on field days. Contact BSSA secretary if you are interested.

President's Report

Hello to all reading this and welcome to 2021.

I hope everyone is okay, having come through all that 2020 brought with it. I trust that all had a happy, if not safe festive season and that 2021 is quite different and looking up.

We have been in a La Nina weather pattern this season, which whilst resulting in cooler days, had brought less rain; thus nectar flow in many parts have been low. Swarms seemed to come to quite a stop.

In 2021 we are meeting in Burnside as before - keeping our distance, recording names and limiting numbers, running (pre-registered) classes and having supper. We have a planned calendar, with class lessons of weeks 1 – 5 (thus over 5 months), which are then repeated to new members, followed in December with Christmas. Currently these are for beginners and intermediate classes. 'Master' classes, to be held later in the year, are being developed, with consideration of them occurring over weekends.

An interesting, informative and relevant list of topics for 'Strictly Beekeeping' and of topic/guest speakers is also planned. The hall will also have changing displays of relevant and informative tools and equipment.

Please do let us know if there is anything you wish to know about or topics to suggest.

In November we finally held our AGM. Thank you to all who attended and participated. Thank you especially for those who nominated, for any and all tasks, and who help in any way.

The 'new' BSSA committee met in January to do some planning, the results of which have begun to occur. A new system to help manage the Society's running, including our website, emails and member details is being implemented, with planning for further subjects and directions of the BSSA commenced.

Remember to continue to check the health of your bees and report any required pests or diseases, ensure your hives are registered and reports kept. PIRSA are concerned about unregistered and neglected hives within Adelaide so do remember the legislation that keeping bees and selling honey come under, and ask questions if not sure or you require help. We have an enormous wealth of knowledge in the Society with so many people willing to impart that information and help in anyway required. Contact us.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone for last year - for coming to meetings, 'watching' meetings electronically, asking and answering questions, helping in any and all ways and caring about bees, the BSSA and each other.

Please stay safe and enjoy the rest of summer and the beginning of autumn, hopefully with delicious honey and healthy bees,

Susan Lonie
President BSSA

BEEGINNERS, INTERMEDIATE, JUNIORS AND MASTERS EDUCATION PROGRAM

6.30 PM TO 7.30 PM
(BEFORE THE START OF MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING)

Planned structured Week 1 – 5 classes will start from February 2021 and be repeated from July. Participants need to register for each session. Please contact the BSSA Secretary.

Members may attend five sessions.
Non-members will be permitted to attend two sessions.

Masterclasses are anticipated to be held during weekends in 2021. Further information will be available on the BSSA website.

The KI Build a Box Project

Update for KI Build a Bee Box project – 27 December 2020

With the project concluded for 2020, there have been 5 weeks of 'build time' for the project. In all 27 separate volunteers (with 3 repeat attendees) will have helped over the 5 weeks. Our efforts were greatly assisted by a grant supplied through the SA Government's "Bushfire Appeal payments for community projects" scheme. This covered the volunteers' accommodation and ferry costs.

The final week was deferred a couple of times because equipment that was meant to arrive had not been despatched in a timely manner due to COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions.

By the end of the project build, there has been an estimated 1240 boxes, 550 lids, and 550 bases and 10,000 frames built. In addition to building hive equipment, volunteers have also managed to do additional work not originally scoped as being part of the project. The boxes, lids, and where appropriate, bases were dipped in

preservative wax, and two brands per box applied. Approximately 50 two-hive pallets to allow ready field deployment were also wax dipped and completed by volunteers.

Coupled with this project work approximately 810 hessian bags for smokers and 400 kg of stainless steel mesh were sourced and supplied over the course of 2020.

Apart from building bee hive equipment, volunteers have made other valuable contributions. A few highlights:

- helped repair and source parts for a gas burner used to heat wax for dipping boxes, bases and lids
- delivered parts for transport to Kangaroo Island
- helped diagnose and fix problems in automatic hive lifting equipment
- dipped boxes and other equipment in hot (160^{o}C) preservative wax
- branded boxes
- sourced and delivered hessian bags and mesh to affected beekeepers
- Trevor even sourced a favourite coffee for one of the beekeepers
- enjoyed themselves immensely
- learnt quite a lot of practical beekeeping from the KI beekeepers
- great friendships were made with the beekeepers and this improved their mental outlook

We haven't kept exact week-by-week comparison figures of the build because the work has been so varied for each week, depending on the requirements of the particular beekeepers involved, and the materials supplied. We must make mention of the four firms which have helped to supply mesh and bags for free. These are Rio Coffee, SOHO Coffee, 1845 Coffee for the bags, and SA Blinds for the offcut 'Crim-Safe' mesh.

Lastly, we would urge members to consider volunteering further assistance for 2021 and 2022. We foresee that there is the potential of at least a week's further build around March 2020 and possibly more. This additional work is currently being investigated with the beekeepers on Kangaroo Island.

While the fires in December 2019 and January 2020 burnt hives of only some of the KI beekeepers, there were higher losses than originally estimated. We estimate 1300-1500 hives lost from a total stock of 4500. However, all KI beekeepers have been affected.

The loss of so much bushland in the Flinders Chase National Park and western end of Kangaroo Island has removed a lot of foraging area for all of the commercial and semi-commercial beekeepers. This has placed greater pressure on the remaining forage areas.

The area burnt likely won't recover and flower again for between 3 and 10 years depending on plant species. This is a long time for reduced income for many, if not all, KI beekeepers.

Trevor Greenfield and Bob Beer

RECENT EVENTS

Sophie's Patch

SPRING OPEN GARDEN
7 – 9 November 2020

It was a delightfully sunny and mild weekend which drew good crowds again this year to Sophie Thomson's Open Garden at Mount Barker. Much interest in beekeeping was expressed by potentially new members to BSSA. All the honey and honeycomb which were retained from the cancelled ABC Gardeners' Market were sold during this weekend.

Thanks to the generous time given by volunteers over the three days at this event the importance of bees in our world was promoted and the "art" of beekeeping was demonstrated through the display of tools and literature available at the marquee.

Mark Horwood discussing bee facts

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Queen bee shortage leaves beekeepers in Australia struggling to rebuild hives

from ABC Rural By Jessica Schremmer
24 January 2021

They are the centre of every beehive but a shortage of queen bees across the country is making it difficult for beekeepers to rebuild and increase their hive numbers.

While demand for beehives and pollination services continues to skyrocket, the number of commercial queen bee breeders in Australia has been dwindling over the past 20 years, leaving some beekeepers struggling to secure new queens.

A queen bee is vital to each beehive because it is the only bee capable of laying fertilised eggs. While a young queen bee can lay up to 2,000 eggs a day and more than one million in her lifetime, her reproductive function declines with age.


Apiarist Kerry Chambers says queen bee rearing is challenging but more people are needed to enter the industry. (Supplied: Johan Harmide)

Key points:

- Queen bees are vital to beehives because they are the only bees capable of laying fertilised eggs
- If ageing queen bees can't be replaced with younger ones, honey production decreases
- Demand for bee pollination services is putting additional pressure on beekeepers


Trevor Weatherhead says more queen bees are needed in Australia.(ABC News: Ashleigh Stevenson)

Chair of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Trevor Weatherhead said there was a real need for more beekeepers to enter the queen bee breeding business. "When old queen bees start to fail, they need to be replaced with younger queen bees,"

Mr Weatherhead said. "But if there are no younger queen bees to replace them with, then the honey production of the beekeeper will go down."

Besides needing them for good honey production, young queen bees are also crucial for beekeepers wanting to increase their hive numbers.

President of the South Australian Apiarist Association Joshua Kennett said many beekeepers were looking for queens to re-establish their hives. "Queens are fairly hard to come by and a lot of beekeepers lost their hives and resources in the devastating bushfires last year."

What's the buzz on all these bees?

There are three types of bee in each hive: queens, workers and drones.

- Queens and worker bees are female and are made from fertilised eggs, so they receive genes from both the queen and a drone from another hive
- Workers do not sexually mature and so cannot breed but have important roles in maintaining and building the hive, feeding larvae and foraging for pollen
- Queens begin life similar to workers but, while workers switch from being fed a diet of royal jelly to a mixture of nectar and pollen, queens continue to be exclusively fed the protein and sugar-dense jelly and so become sexually mature and much larger than other bees
- Drones are hatched from unfertilised eggs and so only receive genes from the queen. Their role in a hive is almost solely for reproduction, and they leave the hive daily in search of 'virgin queens'

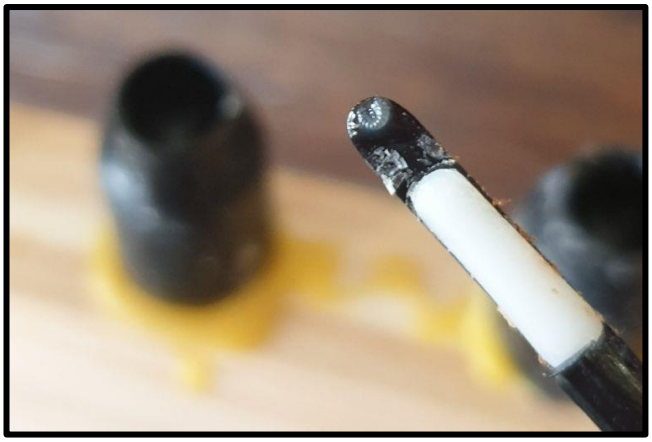
Dying art of queen bee breeding

Riverland beekeeper Kerry Chambers recently started queen bee rearing to expand her business and to support other beekeepers. "Queen rearing is certainly a dying art. There is only a small number of people doing it full time," Ms Chambers said.

But she admitted that grafting queens wasn't easy, and her first experience was nerve-wrecking. "Grafting is the hardest part; you have to pull out a frame that has day-old larvae," she said. "You use a special tool to scoop that little larvae out without damaging them and placing them in your prepared queen cup. You have to have good eyesight and a steady hand." But despite some challenges, she believed there were many benefits to rearing queens.

"Having queens is the way to expand your number of hives quickly," Ms Chambers said. "You can grab some frames from an existing hive, put it in a new hive and put a queen with them and then you have another colony straight away. "I want to rear queens to have queens on hand if something happens to my established hives and I won't have to lose any productivity, but also to help out other beekeepers."

Mr Weatherhead, who has reared queen bees for 24 years, believed the precise time constraints and finicky work to graft bees was one reason stopping people from breeding queens. "You have to do certain steps on certain days no matter if rain, hail or sunshine," he said. "It's very meticulous work that needs to be done in time."



Small larvae needs to be transferred with a special tool into a queen bee cup when grafting queens.(Supplied: Kerry Chambers)

Pollination demand puts pressure on beekeepers

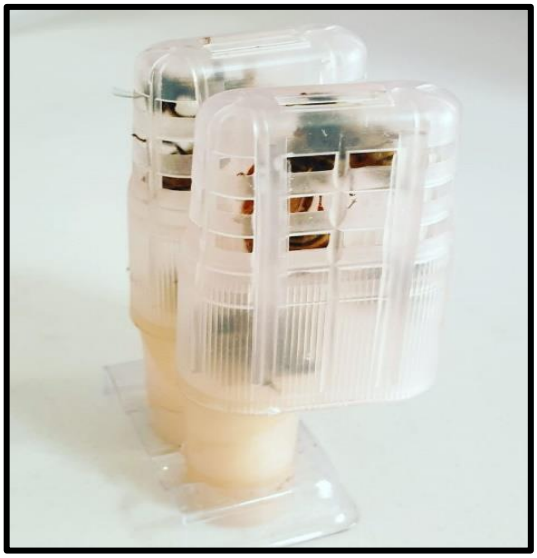
The requirement for more bees to pollinate newly planted fruit and nut trees for food production across the country is putting additional pressure on beekeepers to expand their hive numbers.

Kerry Chambers has started rearing queen bees to expand her business and support other beekeepers.(Supplied: Kerry Chambers)

But Mr Kennett thought it also led to changing beekeeping practices because beehives needed to be very strong for pollination. "We seem to be using more queens now than we ever have," he said.

It is estimated that one third of crops in Australia were dependent on bee pollination. Last year an estimated 227,000 beehives or more than 9 billion bees were being trucked into Victoria alone to pollinate almond trees. Mr Kennett explained it meant many beekeepers were focusing on increasing hive numbers quickly. "My own personal thoughts are we probably push our hives a bit more than what we used to 15 years ago," he said.

"There is a lot more pollination going on, so we seem to be trying to change queens a bit more to make sure that queens in each hive are the best we can get."



Grafted queen bees in a cage ready to be released in a hive.(Supplied: Kerry Chambers)

New research shows bees can do maths

OPINION

from Indaily, 7 February 2019

A new study shows honeybees can use symbols to perform basic maths, including addition and subtraction, with researchers saying the finding may have implications for the development of artificial intelligence.

Honeybees are a high value model for exploring questions about neuroscience, with recent research showing it can manage complex problems – like understanding the concept of zero – despite having a brain containing less than one million neurons.

In our latest study, published in the journal *Science Advances*, we decided to test if they could learn to perform simple arithmetical operations such as addition and subtraction.

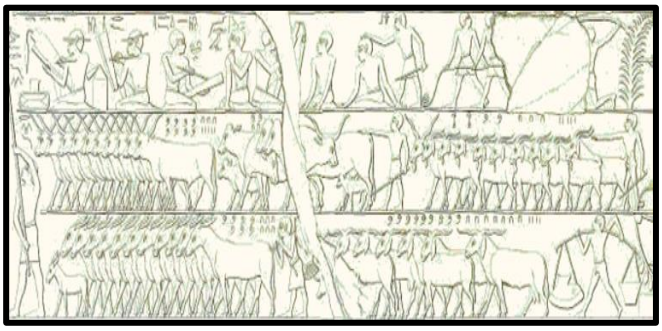
Addition and subtraction operations

As children, we learn that a plus symbol (+) means we have to add two or more quantities, while a minus symbol (-) means we have to subtract quantities from each other.

To solve these problems, we need both long-term and short-term memory. We use working (short-term) memory to manage the numerical values while performing the operation, and we store the rules for adding or subtracting in long-term memory.

Although the ability to perform arithmetic like adding and subtracting is not simple, it is vital in human societies. The Egyptians and Babylonians show evidence of using arithmetic around 2000 BCE, which would have been useful – for example – to count livestock and calculate new numbers when cattle were sold off.

But does the development of arithmetical thinking require a large primate brain, or do other animals face similar problems that enable them to process arithmetic operations? We explored this using the honeybee.



This scene depicts a cattle count (copied by the Egyptologist Lepsius). In the middle register we see 835 horned cattle on the left, right behind them are some 220 animals and on the right 2235 goats. In the bottom register we see 760 donkeys on the left and 974 goats on the right. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

How to train a bee

Honeybees are central place foragers – which means that a forager bee will return to a place if the location provides a good source of food.

We provide bees with a high concentration of sugar water during experiments, so individual bees (all female) continue to return to the experiment to collect nutrition for the hive.

In our setup, when a bee chooses a correct number (see below) she receives a reward of sugar water. If she makes an incorrect choice, she will receive a bitter tasting quinine solution.

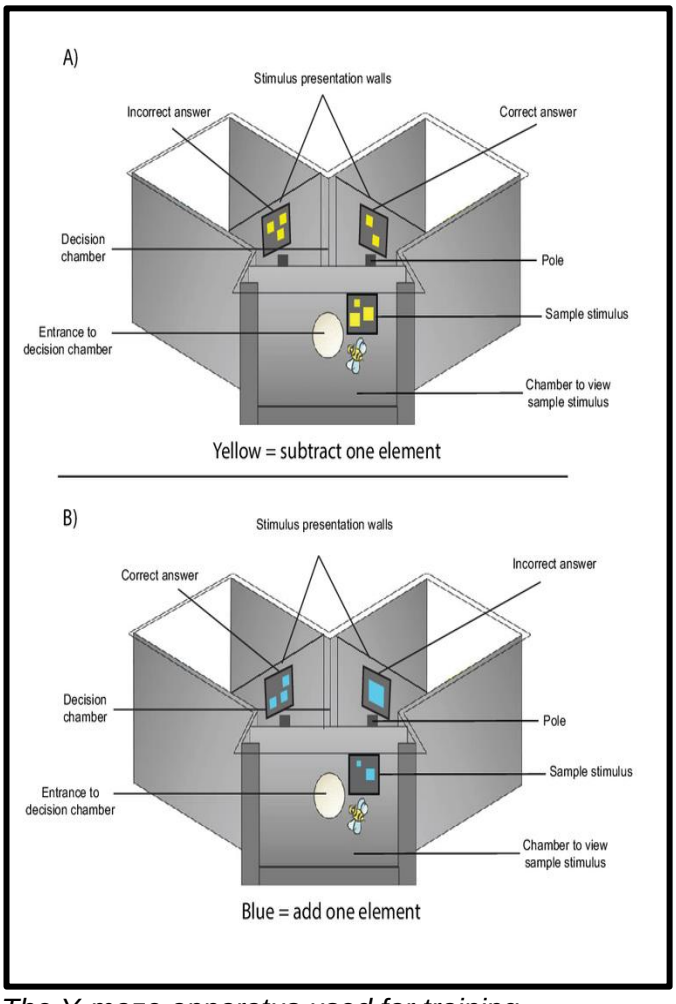
We use this method to teach individual bees to learn the task of addition or subtraction over four to seven hours. Each time the bee became full she returned to the hive, then came back to the experiment to continue learning.

Addition and subtraction in bees

Honeybees were individually trained to visit a Y-maze-shaped apparatus. The bee would fly into the entrance of the Y-maze and view an array of elements consisting of between one and five shapes. The shapes (for example square shapes, but many shape options were employed in actual

experiments) would be one of two colours. Blue meant the bee had to perform an addition operation (+ 1). If the shapes were yellow, the bee would have to perform a subtraction operation (- 1). For the task of either plus or minus one, one side would contain an incorrect answer and the other side would contain the correct answer. The side of stimuli was changed randomly throughout the experiment, so that the bee would not learn to only visit one side of the Y-maze.

After viewing the initial number, each bee would fly through a hole into a decision chamber where it could either choose to fly to the left or right side of the Y-maze depending on operation to which she had been trained for.



The Y-maze apparatus used for training honeybees. Diagram: Scarlett Howard

At the beginning of the experiment, bees made random choices until they could work out how to solve the problem. Eventually, over 100 learning trials, bees learnt that blue meant +1 while yellow meant -1. Bees could then apply the rules to new numbers. During testing with a novel number, bees were correct in addition and subtraction of one element 64-72 per cent of the time. The bee's performance on tests was significantly different than what we would expect if bees were choosing randomly, called chance level performance (50 per cent correct/incorrect). Thus, our "bee school" within the Y-maze allowed the bees to learn how to use arithmetic operators to add or subtract.

Why is this a complex question for bees?

Numerical operations such as addition and subtraction are complex questions because they require two levels of processing. The first level requires a bee to comprehend the value of numerical attributes. The second level requires the bee to mentally manipulate numerical attributes in working memory.

In addition to these two processes, bees also had to perform the arithmetic operations in working memory – the number "one" to be added or subtracted was not visually present. Rather, the idea of plus one or minus "one" was an abstract concept which bees had to resolve over the course of the training.

Showing that a bee can combine simple arithmetic and symbolic learning has identified numerous areas of research to expand into, such as whether other animals can add and subtract.

Implications for AI and neurobiology

There is a lot of interest in AI, and how well computers can enable self-learning of novel problems.

Our new findings show that learning symbolic arithmetic operators to enable addition and subtraction is possible with a miniature brain. This suggests there may be new ways to incorporate interactions of both long-term rules and working memory into designs to improve rapid AI learning of new problems.

Also, our findings show that the understanding of maths symbols as a language with operators is something that many brains can probably achieve, and helps explain how many human cultures independently developed numeracy skills.

Scarlett Howard is PhD candidate at RMIT University; Adrian Dyer is Associate Professor at RMIT University, and Jair Garcia, is a research fellow at RMIT University. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons licence.

BEE SEEING YOU AT NIGHT!

This masked bee has enlarged eyes to forage at night. Picture: James Dorey

Article by Rachel Moore, The Advertiser 31/10/20

In an Aussie first, researchers have found two species of bees that have adapted their vision to be able to forage under the cover of darkness. The study by ecology researchers found both species had developed enlarged eyes, which allowed more light to be gathered.

Flinders University PhD student James Dorey, the study's lead author, said the nomiine and masked bee species were mostly found in Australia's tropical north.

"It's true that bees aren't generally known to be very capable when it comes to using their eyes at night but it turns out that low -light foraging is more common than currently thought," Mr Dorey said. "We have confirmed the existence of at least two crepuscular bee species in Australia and there are likely to be many more that can forage both during the day and into the early morning or evening under low-light conditions."

He said the study allowed researchers to better understand the behaviour of bee species to help protect them from the potential impacts of climate change. "We have to improve our understanding about insects pollinating at night or in milder parts of the day," Mr Dorey said.

BEE-FRIENDLY PLANTS TO GROW

AUTUMN FLOWERS

Sunflowers (Helianthus): There's not much to say about the sunflower, except the bees love it and if you have chickens you can also feed the sunflower seeds to them as a treat once they're ready. Some people throw the whole head out to the chickens and watch them peck.

These plants produce huge yellow blooms that are made up of thousands of tiny flowers bunched together – providing abundant pollen and nectar for visiting bees. Sunflowers are easy to grow from seed, and bloom throughout summer and into autumn.

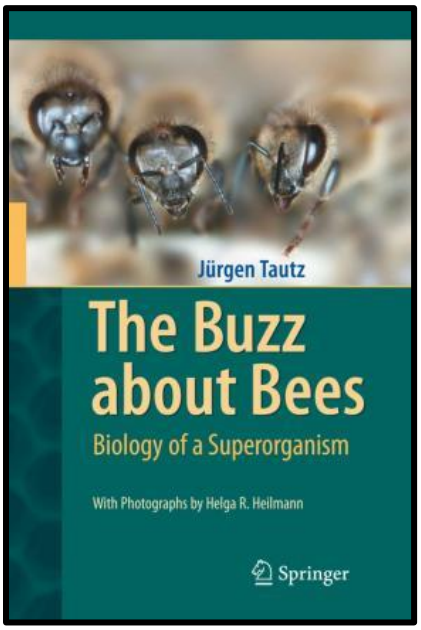
BOOK CORNER

Books from the BSSA library collection are available for lending to members at monthly meetings, generally on a one-month basis (by negotiation). Our librarian, Sue Speck, will be delighted to help members select a suitable book.

She has updated the library catalogue and all books are available for borrowing now that face-to-face meetings have resumed. Intending borrowers may pre-book an item by writing an email to the Secretary at BSSA and requesting that it be put aside for collection at the next meeting.

The BSSA website includes a list of recommended books and new additions to the library, including the following:

The Buzz about Bees: Biology of a Superorganism



author: Jurgen Tautz

With some 230 fascinating high quality colour photographs and an easy understandable text **The Buzz about Bees** tells the story of **honeybees** in a new perspective. The book introduces children to concepts of endangered species, the unique role bees play in the ecosystem, and their relationship with humans.

Also available for loan is "Honeybee Democracy", an updated edition from an earlier publication. Check it out at the next monthly meeting!

RECIPES

SUMMER TREAT - STRAWBERRIES/YOGHURT DELIGHT

Who doesn't love a frozen treat? These are perfect for summer days and will keep for a couple of weeks in the freezer. You can make them as popsicles with wooden sticks or freeze them in moulds of your favourite shape. You'll need a 125 ml (1/2 cup) capacity mould.

200 ml plain yoghurt
2 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons milk
12 ripe strawberries, hulled and sliced

Combine the yoghurt, honey and milk in a jug. Divide the strawberry slices evenly among the holes in the mould then pour in the yoghurt mixture. Push in the popsicle sticks and freeze for at least four hours, preferably overnight. Makes 6.

(From Weekend Australian Magazine, 30/1/21)

FUN FACTS

HONEY, HONEY AND MORE HONEY

Does honey have a healing role in the garden? Would it help repair pest damage to fruit tree trunks?

Honey is an ancient remedy for healing human wounds due to its antiseptic properties. Potency varies widely; the best Manuka honey has significant antibacterial activity and some honeys have antifungal activity. Trees repair wounds by "compartmentalising" or isolating damaged tissues and growing new bark over the damage. Honey's effect is unknown but proprietary wound-sealing paints can be damaging and are not recommended. Honey does help promote root formation on stem cuttings.
(Excerpt from The Weekend Australian Magazine, 5-6 September 2020)

DID YOU KNOW …

SMELL has a new buzz!

Honeybees can be scent-trained by using a synthetic smell that could help boost the pollination of sunflowers.

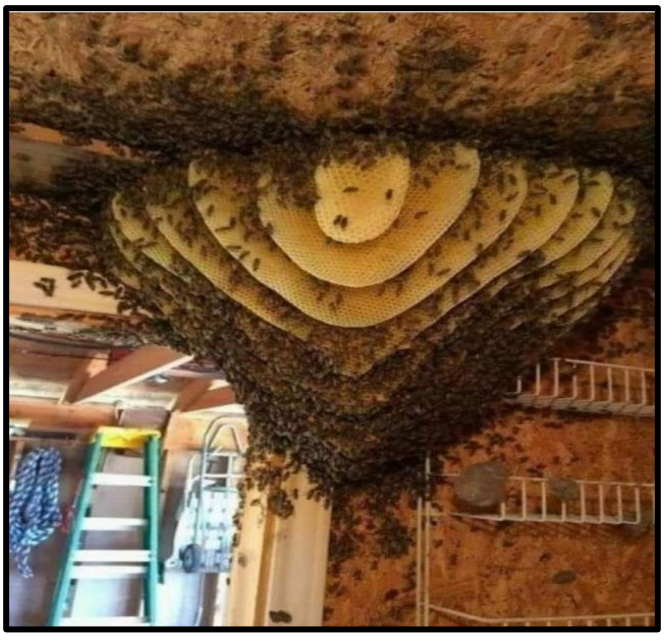
Researchers in Argentina have developed an artificial smell that mimicked the natural scent of the flower before filling hives with scented food that, they said, influenced the bees' foraging preferences and led them to more sunflowers.

The same bees also delivered more sunflower pollen back to the hive, while helping enhance the flowers' production of seeds by up to 57 per cent. Academics are now developing smells for other crops.
(Excerpt from The Islander newspaper, Oct 2020)

BRIGHTON JETTY SCULPTURES JANUARY 2021 – 'BEE ONE WITH NATURE' ENTRY BY ROB MARTIN

Rob Martin in front of his exhibit

BEST BEE TAKEOVERS



Wow!! Amazing formation in storage shed.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE "buzz" AROUND TOWN????

Shopping bag on sale at local retail centre

Boxed strawberries at supermarket

Seen at local hardware store

SAVE THE BEES – BEE THE CURE

There are several organisations promoting bee awareness through clothing and various paraphernalia – above is just one example. T-shirts for adults and children are available for purchase online. Visit their website at bee the cure.com.au.