
BUZZWORD



Beekeepers' Society of South Australia Inc.

www.bees.org.au

NEWSLETTER

Edition 114

July 2022



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Many thanks to those who provide articles for the newsletter.

Contributors:

Bob Beer
 Aphrodite Noikou
 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

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2021-2022 Office Bearers:

President:	Susan Lonie
Vice-President	Adrian Makarowsky
Treasurer:	John Thomas
Assistant Treasurer	Noel McPharlin
Membership Manager	Grant Gotley

Secretary: Trisha Blanks 0437 713 790
office@bees.org.au

Committee Members:

Josh D'Ambrosio
 Trevor Greenfield
 Aphrodite Noikou

Co-ordinators:

Website: James Field

Education: Trevor Greenfield, Aphrodite Noikou
 Grant Gotley

Minute Secretary: Xar Waskowski-Jones
Librarian: Sue Speck

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, Tasmore on the **SECOND MONDAY** of each month at 7.30 pm

Supper is available (gold coin donation).

General meetings are held in person at the Burnside Civic Centre under current COVID-19 restrictions.

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

Beginners 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. More information inside.

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 situated at the SA Museum on North Terrace is currently not available for viewing by the public due to COVID restrictions.

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

Samantha Grund – PIRSA Bee Biosecurity Officer

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due as from 1st July each year. The membership fee for the financial year commencing 1 July 2022 is:

\$65 single
\$30 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)

PUBLIC AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY INSURANCE

The BSSA provides access to affordable public and product liability insurance for members' personal beekeeping practices. If you are selling honey or collecting swarms it is advisable to have adequate insurance.

INSURANCE PAYMENT FOR THE 2022-2023 YEAR IS DUE AND PAYABLE BY 31 JULY

COVERAGE IS DEPENDENT ON THE INSURED PERSON BEING A CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBER OF BSSA

THIS INSURANCE IS NOT INTENDED TO COVER MEMBERS' COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES

 ***Insurance cover will not be endorsed if payment has not received by 31 July*** 

1-20 hives \$50.00
21-49 hives \$70.00
50-99 hives \$90.00
100-105 hives \$108.00
106-120 hives \$135.00

The fees include GST and stamp duty.

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 Trisha Blanks (BSSA Secretary)

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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY, 8 AUGUST, 7.30 PM

Our August meeting will be our Annual General Meeting. It is the occasion when, in accordance with our constitution, all offices will be declared vacant and elections held for next year's management committee comprising President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, several committee members as well as other positions within the Society.

Any financial member of our organisation is entitled to nominate himself/herself for office or, alternatively, nominate a fellow member who he/she considers will enthusiastically and competently carry out the duties of the office.

Further information about nominations/voting may be obtained from the secretary, Trisha Blanks or email: office@bees.org.au

Your participation is encouraged.



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, 8 September.**

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

Wednesday	10 August Time: 1 pm
Saturday	20 August Time: 1 pm
Wednesday	14 September Time: 1 pm
Saturday	1 October Time: 1 pm
Wednesday	12 October Time: 1 pm
Saturday	29 October Time: 1 pm

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.

Bookings can be made only through the BSSA secretary or Bob Beer at beersbees@bigpond.com or mobile 0413 208 835. Cost - \$10 (members); \$20 (non-members).

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

President's Report



Dear BSSA Members,
We are firmly in winter. However, the big question is: when will there be spring? It'll soon be time to turn our attention to the possibility of swarming.

I do trust everyone managed to winter down their bees okay and have been busy preparing for spring. Hopefully the majority of you had honey as a reward. In warmer parts of the state bees are still foraging, particularly with the flowering of many native plants, coupled with intermittent sun.

With concern, however, we all noted and hopefully kept up to date, with the unwanted varroa mite situation in New South Wales. As I assume you're all now aware, varroa mites were found in observation hives at the Port of Newcastle, with authorities in NSW embarking on a huge logistical plan to trace and eradicate the mite.

For those not aware, Australia embarked a number of years ago, after learning from the observation of other countries, in placing observation hives at 'entry points' such as airports and shipping ports, to try and be alerted to the introduction of harmful pests and diseases, early enough to be able to eradicate them.

The incursion has reminded us all of good hygiene/biosecurity practices, and good record keeping when tending to our hives and equipment.

Further, it has highlighted to the wider community the importance of not just bees and beekeeping but the massive impact on other industries - firstly the almond industry.

Members who are registered with PIRSA, as required by legislation, should be receiving ongoing updates from PIRSA and the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC).

Following the closing down of hives and extraction of frames, honey and possibly wax,

hopefully some members have lodged an entry/entries, with the Royal Adelaide Show.

Entries have now closed, with actual entries being taken to the showgrounds in August for judging the week preceding the Show. I'd encourage all members, should they attend the Show, to seek out the entries, exhibited in the centre of the large pavilion where jams and such items are exhibited. It might entice you all to place your own entries in the future – should that be mead you'll need to start now! There will also be a number of local country shows during the year should anyone wish to 'start small'.

Our BSSA meetings, despite COVID, continue on the second Monday of each month. Our next meeting in August will include our AGM. At that meeting we hope to have a talk from a member of his experience in keeping bees in Lebanon, as well as a talk in relation to the approach of spring.

Please note that all positions become vacant and nominations will be received from the floor. We are always keen to receive new ideas and members keen to help and better the Society.

For the remainder of the year, in future meetings, we will have talks by a commercial beekeeper from Kangaroo Island who suffered losses in the bushfires; Professor Chris Daniels, the presiding member of the Adelaide and Mt Lofty NRM Board; and Sophie Thomson.

Our Beginners and Intermediate classes prior to the meeting at Burnside will continue, whilst our field days at Clovelly Park will resume in spring.

Prior to that, hopefully all have noted - as mentioned in the July meeting, (which I apologise was not recorded) and emailed out to all members - that Michael Stedman, the Project Coordinator for Apiaries from PIRSA, will be conducting practical demonstrations of how to perform alcohol washes to sample varroa mites. This will occur at the BSSA's Clovelly Park site on Saturday, 23 July, at 11am, 1 pm and 2 pm. To attend please register through the email you received or on the BSSA website. If this day proves popular further dates will be offered.

Please all remember to observe your hives for signs of mites, sample your hives using the alcohol wash method and practise good biosecurity.

I hope you continue to stay safe and warm for the remainder of winter, and try to have fun. Please don't forget that there are many people willing to help if you have any questions or need physical assistance. Please do also continue to send comments, advice, concerns, or questions you may have, including anything you may wish us to do.

Take care and I hope you all stay well.

Susan Lonie

President BSSA



BEGINNERS, 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 commenced in February 2022 and will 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 before being required to join BSSA.

Masterclasses are anticipated to be held during weekends in 2022. Further information will be available on the BSSA website.

RECENT EVENTS

CERTIFICATE III IN BEEKEEPING

Bee Prepared Training and Development is a registered training organisation currently offering Certificate III and Basic Skill Set programs to our BSSA members aimed at building skills and capabilities in the apiary industry. They are the only South Australian provider of nationally accredited beekeeping training and have been engaged by our education subcommittee (Trevor Greenfield, Aphrodite Noikou and Grant Gotley) to provide real hands-on experience from the training apiaries at Echunga in the Adelaide Hills.

Skills SA have funded two subsidised key projects in beekeeping over 12 months to run until February 2023 and beyond, if possible. It is hoped that next year the Cert III and the Basic Skill Set will be fully funded. The subsidised cost to BSSA members is \$600.

Currently, with the Basic Skill Set program, there are only two members enrolled but there is a need to have 12 people engaged in the program to have it run viably to evaluation stage. A tentative start date of 25 July has been set for the next segment, and is dependent on enrolment numbers.

Several course options are being considered to ensure the course continues through various career pathways, as desired by course participants. Course options are variable and available for hobby beekeepers or those looking at career pathways wishing to establish a beekeeping related business.

This is an important time for beekeepers – either hobby or career-minded BSSA members - to make the most of a rare and valuable opportunity.

Further information about course times and learning outcome options is available from Trevor Greenfield, Aphrodite Noikou or

Grant Gotley. Their contact details are available from BSSA secretary Trisha Blanks, phone 0437 713 790, or email office@bees.org.au.

Aphrodite Noikou, Education Committee Member:

The images below capture the enthusiasm and collaboration of the BSSA students working together with SAAA students studying Certificate III in Beekeeping both in the classroom and onsite within Valkenburg's workshop. The assessment was OHS&W working in a workshop building and repairing bee boxes and wax dipping then painting them along with assembly of frames and wiring them ready for the hive. The students had so many “powered toys” to play with but were assessed on following their appropriate work procedures and communicating as a team to get the work done safely and productively. The wealth of experience gained during these days in the workshop are immeasurable and greatly appreciated.

Trevor Greenfield, Education Committee Member:

As project manager on BSSA Education sub-committee, the only comment I feel I need to add is that I feel gratified that all the participants in the Certificate 3 course have benefitted and enjoyed their involvement so far. It's obvious from the enthusiasm in the comments already made.



Certificate III in Beekeeping course participants and lecturer



Feedback from Course Participants:

It's been an absolute pleasure teaching you all. Your input and contribution in learning has been exceptional.

Cheers,

Peter Mew, Instructor

Attending the Certificate III in Beekeeping course has been not only educational but thoroughly enjoyable. The friendships formed in the class have enriched my life in ways I hadn't expected.

With over four years of working with bees I now know that there is so much more to learn if I am to be the best beekeeper I can be. The practical experiences bring all the theory together in ways that enable me to use this information going forward and build on it to benefit the bees and the people I engage with when assisting them with their bees too.

Aphrodite Noikou

Keeping bees for seven years has been quite a journey and what a privilege it has been to be undertaking the Certificate III in Beekeeping. The wealth of knowledge gained from the leaders, all the participants and the amazing insights from the commercial beekeepers has been invaluable. Thank you to everyone involved for making it such a practical and enjoyable experience.

James Gordon

Taking the next step in beekeeping to study the Cert III shows me that keeping bees is a lifelong educational journey. The wealth of knowledge shared by the participants, and especially the commercial beekeeper mates, is valuable beyond any of my expectations. A 'must study' course for beekeepers who like to take the next step in beekeeping and to be prepared for the challenges we face here in Australia.

Ulrich Schade

The depth of knowledge of the instructors and my peers makes this course thoroughly enjoyable. A class doesn't go by without an ahhh moment, when another piece of the beekeeping puzzle falls into place. I look forward to passing a wealth of knowledge on to members during future field days and as a mentor.

Paul van Eyk

This wonderful course is rich in information and also very practical. The collaborative approach that Peter and David encourage makes for solid learning and a lot of inspiration for how to take beekeeping further. Having recreational and commercial beekeepers together in the course builds links between the two groups which will help to create a stronger industry and better advocacy on issues of concern to beekeepers.

Rossi Von der Borch

A great opportunity to learn with individuals who are passionate about beekeeping. The experience and depth of knowledge of students and educators is astounding. Classes are informative and enlightening with a good balance of skill, knowledge and practical components.

Gavin Pearce

I have been keeping bees for over five years, and I was looking to learn more. I am grateful for the opportunity to expand my

knowledge. Doing Certificate III has been an amazing learning experience, not just with the bees, but learning from everyone in the class, especially from commercial beekeepers, and I have made friends. I am absolutely grateful and humbled by the experience.

Serina Biddle





ARTICLES OF INTEREST

NSW authorities begin destroying thousands of bees in Newcastle in bid to control deadly varroa mite

[ABC Rural](#)

By [Keely Johnson](#) and staff – 28 June 2022



So far 300 hives in Newcastle have been earmarked for eradication. (Supplied: Natural Beekeeping Tasmania)

The destruction of hundreds of beehives in Newcastle and parts of New South Wales is under way as authorities work to control the spread of a deadly parasite.

The detection of the *Varroa destructor* — commonly called the varroa mite — in the Port of Newcastle last week triggered a 10-

kilometre eradication zone and halt on all movement of bees across the state.

The Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services has so far earmarked 300 hives in the zone to be destroyed over the next few days. "So far, just around the Newcastle area, there's been six sentinel hives and three private hives that have been destroyed and that will continue over the next day or so," NSW Agriculture Minister Dugald Saunders said.

One hundred and twenty hives were also destroyed in Trangie yesterday after government contact tracers found a commercial beekeeper near the port had recently sent some of his hives to the region.

Key points:

- Authorities have started eradicating bee hives around the varroa mite detection site in Newcastle
- The department of Primary Industries destroyed 120 hives in Trangie yesterday, with another 300 plus to be destroyed in Newcastle
- Farmers fear the situation will impact pollination season for many horticulture crops

"Although there was no detection of the actual mite in the hives at Trangie, given they were from the same property, the decision was made to destroy them as well," Mr Saunders said. He said investigations were under way to identify any other possible movements that may have spread the parasite. "What we're really doing now is a lot of investigative work to see where other hives have travelled to.

Apiarists devastated

Peter King runs a 130-year-old beekeeping supply business in Cardiff and says a new

sense of optimism in the sector has been ruined. "When COVID took off people got into it [beekeeping] and we have been like that for the last couple of years," he said. "Only now things have started to slow back down again and we're devastated with this."

Kurri Kurri apiarist Col Wilson said the thought of destroying hives was devastating. "If you've got livestock, and bees are livestock, they're sort of a pet and you do not like losing them; it does have a real effect on people," he said.

Farmers concerned

Commercial blueberry farmer Vik Momi said the orders meant he could no longer move the bees he currently had on his Glenreagh property to the crops that needed them. "The plants are going to start flowering soon and we have to move them into the summer crop," he said. "[My beekeeper] says under the NSW guidelines he can't move them, he is only allowed to move them no more than 3 metres." Mr Momi said he relied on bees to pollinate his crop and ensure his fruit was up to consumer standards. "It's very important for everything; the pollination improves the fruit quality," he said. "They make them juicier, bigger and tastier."

The effects of a widespread varroa mite outbreak or significant stoppage to bee movement will affect more than just blueberries. Almonds, apples and cherries are some of the 35 agricultural industries reliant on bee pollination.

The ABC has contacted various fruit and vegetable industry bodies, many of whom have said it could be a number of weeks before an impact on produce prices is known. With an unknown end date for movement restrictions, producers say it is difficult to speculate on the price rises.

UPDATE: Beekeepers in New South Wales will soon be able to move their hives for pollination services and honey production under a new plan announced by Agriculture Minister Dugald Saunders.

Key points:

- **From Wednesday (20 July) hives outside of varroa mite biosecurity zones will be able to be moved with a permit**
- **The change is to allow pollination services and boost honey production**
- **Australian Honey Bee Industry Council chief executive Danny LeFeuvre says it gives business continuity to the honey bee industry while minimising the risk of spreading varroa mite**

Almost one million bees saved from flood waters

Article by Jess Layt, Maitland Mercury, 3 March 2022

Almost a million lives were saved from flood waters yesterday (2 March) - tiny, buzzy lives. Camden Community Garden president Steve Cooper and volunteers Justin O'Brien and Simon Suters worked through the night to save 19 bee hives from the rising flood waters.

Mr O'Brien, in Sydney's south, said he got the call from Mr Cooper about 6.30 pm. "He told me that our four lowest beehives had started to become inundated with water," the Ellis Lane resident said.

"We had to wade through waist-deep water to get to the hives. "Some of them weighted probably 90 to 100 kilos with the frames, honey and bees inside, and when you throw in the water it's quite heavy."



Mr O'Brien said it took about two hours to move four hives to higher ground at the Exeter Street garden.

Happy with their efforts, Mr O'Brien and Mr Cooper took a rest. But by 9pm, they had to head to the garden again – the next row of hives were completely inundated. "This time we were shoulder-deep in water," Mr O'Brien said. "There was one that we couldn't move. But then we were able to get it out, because the water had lifted the hive up and the air trapped inside allowed Steve and Simon to float it out of the enclosure."

Mr O'Brien said the trio managed to save 19 out of 21 hives, and some of them needed to be moved more than once to higher ground as the waters kept rising.

"It was definitely an ordeal," Mr O'Brien said. "I left there just after 12 am and Steve finished at 1 am. He went back down at 3 am because some of the hives hadn't been moved high enough. "It was a crazy night and I've copped numerous stings after getting about two dozen bees inside my suit."

Steve doesn't wear gloves, so he's a bit sore and sorry today."

Mr O'Brien said the largest hives held up to 60,000 bees. "There could have been in excess of a million bees altogether," he said. "When they're wet and cold they get extremely angry."

All bee colonies at the garden came from swarm removals conducted by Mr O'Brien and Mr Cooper in the past few years. Mr O'Brien said despite the rescue being a "horrendous" ordeal, it was something that just needed to be done.

"We couldn't believe how quickly the water had risen," he said. "The chicken coop as well was completely submerged. We were able to get the chickens out and put them in the greenhouse, but then that got submerged as well and we were only able to save four of the nine chickens. "We lost a few of the chooks, which was really unfortunately."

"You see things on the news and people saying 'I couldn't believe how quickly it was rising', and this was one of those situations. "We'd pick up one hive, move it, come back and the water had already risen a foot in that time. "It was a big night."

NSW floods kill millions of bees as apiarists warn of flow-on effects to horticulture industry

ABC Rural

By *Amelia Bernasconi* and *Kim Honan*
(16 March 2022)

Floodwaters rose two metres in just four hours at Steve Smith's New South Wales home, and while he escaped by boat,

nearby, millions of his bees were not so lucky. The NSW Apiarists' Association (NSWAA) estimates up to 5,000 beehives have been lost in the floods. "Some of these guys are at their wits' end," Steve Fuller from the NSWAA said.



Thousands of bee hives have been damaged by floodwaters in the Northern Rivers. (Supplied: Steve Fuller)

"The apiarist industry has been hit three years in a row. "We've had the bushfires, then we've had the floods on the Mid North Coast last year, and now the floods up here [in northern NSW]." Mr Fuller, who was also hit by flooding at his Grafton property, said many apiarists will now be unable to keep pollination contracts with the berry sector, which would have flow-on effects. "If they can't produce big plump fruit then their prices will go up; it's a ripple effect," Mr Fuller said. "It's a small industry with a big impact."

No chance to relocate

There was little warning for anyone in the Northern Rivers ahead of the flooding that rewrote history.

Even with notice, moving hives is tricky business. "Once you've got them on the truck to move them out of low lying areas you've got to find an area where you can safely put them down so they are really hard to move," Mr Fuller said.



Flooding in Grafton has swept hives away and tangled them in damaged trees. (Supplied: Steve Fuller)

The apiarists' association is also calling on the public to report sightings of bee boxes that may have washed downstream. "It might be at a beach, a river; we've had reports [of hives] in car parks, houses," Mr Fuller said. "These hives are these beekeepers' livestock. "It's what their business is based on and every hive should be branded with the beekeeper's numbers."

Mr Fuller said uncollected hives could pose biosecurity risks to other beekeepers in the area.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has established an emergency hotline for animal and agricultural services, including beehive removal.

Key points:

- The NSW Apiarists' Association says recent flooding has washed away or destroyed up to 5,000 beehives, each containing tens of thousands of bees
- The losses will affect other industries like horticulture, which relies on bees to pollinate crops



SOME CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE BEE-FRIENDLY GARDEN

Native Versus Exotic

The European honey bee has adapted well to the native flora of Australia and, in particular, to the copious nectar flow of

many eucalypts. An increasing number of people prefer to plant native or indigenous species in their gardens and as the point of the bee-friendly garden is to provide flowering plants attractive to your bees for most of the year, with some research and the assistance of a specialist nursery you should be able to achieve a bee-friendly native garden with little difficulty in whatever region of Australia you live.

For most of us a mixture of both native and introduced flowering plants will provide the largest choice of bee-attracting species for our gardens and ensure that our bees are easily able to access both pollen and nectar at various times throughout the year.

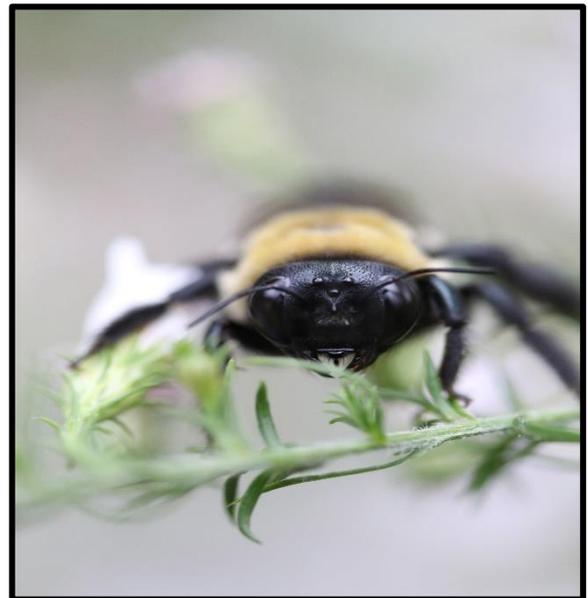
Excerpt from The Australian Beekeeping Manual by Robert Owen, 2020

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

10 FUN FACTS ABOUT BEES:

1. The reason bees are so noisy is because they beat their wings 11,400 times in one minute!
2. Only female bees can sting. Male bees don't have stingers.
3. Honey bees communicate through a series of dance moves.

4. A hive of bees will fly over 55,000 miles (88,513 kms) to make 1lb (453 g) of honey and can create 100lbs (45.35 kg) of honey in a year.
5. Bees can sense the hormone a human gives off when they're scared. If they feel their hive is threatened they'll attack.
6. The honey bee is the only insect that makes food man can eat.
7. Each honey bee from the same hive has their own specific color identification.
8. The Ancient Egyptian King Pepy II came up with a clever insect repellent. He would cover a slave completely with honey so they would be attracted to the honey and not him!
9. Eating honey makes you smarter! It has an antioxidant that improves brain functions.
10. One bee has 5 eyes! Check them out in the photo below.



Readers' letters/responses to Australian Beekeeper Magazine

(From February and April 2022 editions)

Q. Is it true that bee stings smell like bananas?

A. Honey bees produce scented hormones (also known as pheromones) and some of these are detectable to humans due to these pheromones' high volatility.

One of these hormones is called the “alarm” pheromone”, which contains various chemical compounds, including one that naturally occurs in bananas. This chemical compound has a strong smell that is reminiscent of banana and pear; interestingly, its analogue is commonly used as a flavouring agent in both food and perfumes.

The banana smell elicits very different responses from humans compared to bees.

The smell of bananas is associated with food for us, but for bees it means: “warning, attack!” This alarm pheromone is released by glands on a worker bee’s sting and functions as a beacon to attract other bees nearby to the sting site to continue their attack. If lots of bees are stinging at the same time, the immediate surroundings may smell like bananas.

Q. Do my bees recognise me? Is it true or is it a urban myth?

A. Bees may have brains the size of poppy seeds but they’re able to pick out individual features on human faces and recognise them during repeat interactions. In one study, scientists paired images of human faces with sugar-laced water and found that bees recognised and remembered faces associated with the sweet reward, even when the reward was absent.

This visual perception not only helps bees recognise each other, but it also helps them recognise and return to flowers that produce more resources.

The big question arises with the translation of these learned behaviours seen in individual bees, to a collective recognition of a beekeeper by the embers of a colony.

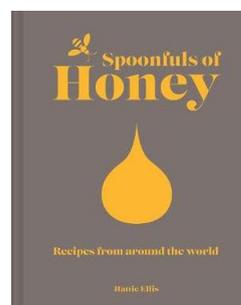
Bees also have highly developed olfactory senses, and so may be attuned to the odour profile of particular people.



BOOK CORNER

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

New to the BSSA Library

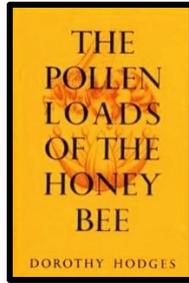


Spoonfuls of Honey – Recipes from around the world

Author: Hattie Ellis, award-winning food writer

Review: Just as honeybees are found all over the world so are recipes that use their honey. It can take no more than a spoonful of honey to bring its deep flavour to a dish. As a marinade it enhances meat and poultry, and works particularly well with nuts and fruits, cream and cheese, and herbs and spices.

As well as over 80 recipes covering meals throughout the day, snacks and drinks, *Spoonfuls of Honey* explores different varieties of honey, explains what to consider when buying and storing, gives tips on its use in your cooking and considers the benefits to your health and the role bees and honey play in nature.



The Pollen Loads of the Honey Bee

Author: Dorothy Hodges
Published by Bee Research Association
Limited (1952)

Dorothy Hodges is an artist and experienced beekeeper. This book is a guide to the identification of pollen by colour and form,

and contains a chart of pollen load colours as recorded in the south of England. Thirty plates of pollen grain drawings, four colour plates, and other beautiful illustrations.



RECIPES

BLISTERED GRAPE SALAD



INGREDIENTS

1 tbsp olive oil
1 kg seedless red grapes, picked from stems
¼ cup honey
¼ cup red wine vinegar
Juice and zest of 1 lime
Salt to season

Extra lime wedges for serving
Mint leaves
Optional extras – goat feta and radicchio leaves

METHOD

1. Heat olive oil in a frypan add grapes, allow grapes to blister and soften a little.
 2. Add honey, red wine vinegar, lime juice and zest, toss through the grapes. Continue to cook until the juices reduce and become sticky. Season to taste with salt.
 3. Remove from the heat, set aside ready to serve.
 4. Place blistered grapes on a serving plate, add lime wedges on the side and scatter with mint leaves.
 5. As an option, goat feta can be crumbled over the grapes and served with radicchio leaves.
- (serves 6)

(from *Foodland Autumn 2022* magazine)

Royal Adelaide Show 2022

Saturday 3 September to
Sunday, 11 September

Honey, mead, and honey cakes will be judged and on display this year. See important information regarding delivery and collection of exhibits on the Royal Adelaide Show website.