



BUZZWORD

Beekeepers' Society of South Australia Inc.

(Formerly Amateur Beekeepers' Soc. of SA Inc)

www.bees.org.au

NEWSLETTER

Edition 104

JANUARY 2020



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Many thanks to those who provide articles for the newsletter.

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Bob Beer
 Mark Horwood
 Eugene McEwen

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:

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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.

CONTENTS:

Committee meetings	page 3
General meetings	page 3
BSSA Apiary site	page 3
Subscriptions	page 3
Bee-ginners' Meeting	page 3
Field Days – practical beekeeping	page 4
President's Report	page 4
Recent Events	page 5
Field Day Report	
Articles of Interest	page 6
Honey Shortages Predicted	
Cudlee Creek Bushfire	
Public Land Access	
GMO Honey ??	
Bee Biosecurity Officer's Report	page 11
Sophie's Patch	page 12
Book Corner	page 13
Bee-Friendly Plant to Grow	page 14
Beekeeping Courses	page 14
Bee Gallery in Penang	page 14
Recipes	page 15
Have You Seen the Buzz?	page 16

2018-2019 Office Bearers:

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Committee Members:

Len Turner
 Joel Hayes

Website Co-ordinator:	Phil de Courcey
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Librarian:

Sue Speck

Equipment Officers:

Eugene McEwen	(North)	8261 0514
Susan Lonie	(South)	0417 811 067

Committee Meetings

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

General Meetings

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

Supper is available (gold coin donation).

BSSA Apiary Site

The four BSSA hives are located at:

Selgar Avenue, Clovelly Park - about 200 metres west off South Road and behind the Tonsley Hotel.

A BSSA hive is situated at the SA Museum on North Terrace for viewing by the public.

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

Bee Biosecurity Officer:
Teagan Alexander – 8429 2170
https://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/bees

Subscriptions

The financial year for the society is from 1 July to 30 June.

The membership fee from 1 July 2019 is:

\$65 single

\$35 junior

\$100 family (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children)

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 for details.

The field days are a must for all new beekeepers.



BEE-GINNERS' MEETINGS START AT 7 PM (BEFORE THE START OF MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING)

Meetings commence at 7 pm for beginner beekeepers to participate in half an hour of question-and-information exchange prior to the start of the main monthly general meeting.

Contact the Secretary for details of meetings in 2020.

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 at the Society's email address or Sandra Ullrich at sullrich@aapt.net.au



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

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

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

For full list of dates of field days see the BSSA website.

Saturday	15 February Time: 10 am
Saturday	14 March Time: 1 pm
Saturday	18 April Time: 10 am
Saturday	16 May Time: 1 pm

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

President's Report



Welcome to 2020!

Hello to all BSSA members and welcome to any new members receiving Buzzword for the first time.

We are now very much into summer, although recent weather has felt more like autumn at times. I trust you all had a nice Christmas and New Year and I'm sure our thoughts are with those who have been affected by bushfires.

At this time of the year hives are being managed with, I believe, good flows of honey being removed in most areas. Observing hives for pests and diseases continues as through any time of the year, with the number of swarms in most areas decreasing.

Most of you, through the media and contact by - amongst others - the BSSA, are aware of the loss of hives due to the Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island fires. We feel for those who have lost hives and infrastructure, understanding that one of the ongoing challenges, as with other animals, will be the loss of nectar and pollen for remaining hives and bees.

Most of you will have seen a plan through the SAAA with PIRSA to assist the replacement of hives lost in South Australia. Please contact the BSSA if you have any questions and remember the quarantine restrictions that apply to Kangaroo Island.

In December our Christmas meeting was very well attended and I wish to very much thank all those who assisted in so many ways to the evening. We also thank Simon Bryant the chef for joining us. I apologise that there was not enough of his food for all, something we have taken note of to try and avoid in the future. We are thankful to receive any feedback or suggestions.

The calendar year has now begun, with our first BSSA meeting scheduled for the beginning of February. We hope you will all enjoy the program that has been developed, with mostly

seasonal Strictly Beekeeping topics in addition to guest speakers and displays of equipment. Please remember to suggest to us any topics or speakers you would like to hear from.

Our Beeginners group continues - thank you to those involved - with our Junior's Club currently being run bi-monthly. We are seeking others to be involved, both on a participation and education level.

We start this year with new extractors, bought with BSSA funds. This is some of the equipment members can borrow. Please let us know if you have any thoughts in relation to the spending of the Society's funds.

Also in this coming year we have some regular events scheduled, being 'Sophie's Patch' and the ABC Gardeners' Market twice during the year, the Royal Adelaide Show and a 'Neighbourhood Day' organised by the council at Burnside. Members are always welcome to attend these events. We are again always grateful for suggestions, advice and participation. Members do not have to be experienced beekeepers to participate on these stalls.

Field Days will again continue at Tonsley thanks to Bob Beer, who is ably supported by Mark Horwood and Ulrich Schade. Registration details are on the BSSA website.

Finally, stay cool and enjoy your beekeeping. Please contact the Society at any time with ideas, requests, comments or concerns you may have. The Society runs on volunteers and we are genuinely interested and want to support and promote fun, responsible beekeeping. We are aware of the media attention that continues around beekeeping, not just in relation to the recent bushfires.

Please also contact us if you can help at stalls and events; we really do require additional help. Don't forget the Society also has equipment and books for borrowing, and further information about BSSA can be found on our website.

Thank you again to all those who contribute in any way to the Society. Happy beekeeping!

Susan Lonie

RECENT EVENTS

BSSA CHRISTMAS PARTY



Simon Bryant (with microphone)

Our year ended with a well-attended Christmas party on Monday, 2 December. Not one to disappoint, Simon Bryant (celebrity chef) shared his cooking tips and expertise, as well as dishing out samples of his famous honey cake.

President, Susan Lonie, gave a wrap-up of the year's events and provided some sober reminders of the summer heat stress likely to affect bees and beekeepers in the coming months. As usual, a sumptuous meal of cooked meats, salads and desserts rounded off another happy Christmas event.

Heartfelt thanks go to all who willingly helped to make the night a big success.

FIELD DAY
16 NOVEMBER
10 AM and 1 PM



PIRSA officer, Teagan Alexander, on right – addressing field day attendees at Clovelly Park BSSA site

Recent strong interest in our field days had required splitting participants into a morning and afternoon session on 16 November.

Ulrich Schade and Mark Horwood have been assisting Bob Beer in order to provide quality time for those attending the site, especially new would-be beekeepers. As Mark will be away during February another volunteer or two would be welcome to assist.

PIRSA representative Teagan Alexander (seen in the group above) has also been a regular attendee leading up to Christmas, focussing on disease identification.



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

BEES

*from the PIRSA
biosecurity_animal health/bees website
reproduced here for your information
(as updated 23/12/2019)*

There are more than 2000 beekeepers registered with Biosecurity SA and approximately 68,000 hives in South Australia.

The value of honeybees

The European honeybee contributes directly to the Australian economy, responsible for the production of in excess of \$101 million in products including honey, beeswax, pollen, royal jelly, venom and package bees. South Australia is estimated to produce in excess of \$11 million worth of products, primarily high quality honey.

The most significant contribution honeybees provide however is in pollinating agricultural and horticultural crops. In Australia 65% of all plant based industries depend to some extent on honeybee pollination. Plant industries most reliant on honeybee pollination include almonds, apples, cherries, blueberries, lucerne and clover.

Australia-wide, the average economic value of honeybees as pollinators of agricultural and horticultural crops has been calculated at \$14 billion. For South Australia, the value of crops pollinated by honeybees is estimated at \$1.7 billion.

Beekeeping for beginners

Keeping honeybees has become a popular hobby in Australia, but did you know that there are a number of legislative requirements and responsibilities that must be followed; to protect not only the industry and your neighbours, but also yourself.

If you are considering keeping honeybees, we recommend reading [Recreational Beekeeping - A guide to beekeeping in South Australia](#) (PDF 3.1 MB). This guide provides the information you will need to get started, including the legislation and responsibilities that must be followed.

Information for beekeepers

In South Australia, any person who keeps honeybees must register as a beekeeper every 12 months. Information in this section includes registration for both new and renewing beekeepers, and some of the legislative requirements and associated forms.

- [Hive management](#)
- [Hive identification and branding](#)
- [Beekeeper registration](#)
- [Moving bees and bee products](#)

Learn more about bee health

A number of pests and diseases affect honeybees, including some which are notifiable, and which must be reported and managed due to the damage they cause.

- [American foulbrood](#)
- [Chalkbrood](#)
- [European foulbrood](#)
- [Nosema](#)
- [Protecting honey bees from pesticides](#)
- [Sacbrood](#)
- [Small hive beetle](#)

More information

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Honey shortages predicted as beekeepers face worst conditions on record due to bushfires, drought

ABC Rural - By [Melanie Groves](#) and [Elly Bradfield](#)
Posted 5 November 2019

Australia is facing a domestic honey shortage, with years of natural disasters affecting beekeepers and their hives.



Beekeepers are facing a tough season, with bushfires and droughts taking their toll.

Drought, cyclones and bushfires have each impacted upon the environment, reducing the pollen and nectar honeybees require to survive and produce honey.

For the first time in 16 years, Queensland beekeeper Phil Dunlop has had to start carrying in water for his bees to drink after the creeks in the Lockyer Valley dried up.

"Normally there's sufficient water nearby in the creeks and dams so we're bringing water in just to keep the bees going," he said.

Mr Dunlop said watermelon farmers in the region had planted less than half their usual crops because they did not have sufficient water supplies, diminishing the flowers for bees to pollinate.



Bees need water, just like any other creature.

"So they're cutting back and so then we cut back," Mr Dunlop said.

As the native trees come into flower, Mr Dunlop would normally transport his hives to the Glen Rock state forest, but bushfires in early October have destroyed many of the trees the bees forage on.

Despite the persistent challenges, Mr Dunlop remained upbeat. "You've just got to keep going," he said. "As all the farmers say, 'just keep battling on'. "At least we're a bit lucky with the bees that we can pick them up and move them to different areas."

The long road to recovery

In north Queensland, beekeeper Paul Marsh has only recently seen his bees recover from the devastating effects of Cyclone Debbie two years ago.

"I was blown away by how long [the bees' recovery] has taken," Mr Marsh said. "It was all the damage to the trees and the environment that really created havoc for us.

Mr Marsh transports his hives up to 350 kilometres away to find adequate sources of pollen and nectar, but said he knew of people who transported hives interstate, thousands of kilometres away, to find a suitable environment.

"But I wouldn't encourage them to come up because there's really nothing going. There's just enough to keep us, keep the

bees maybe in the condition that they're hopefully in," he said.

The tough conditions had Mr Marsh questioning the viability of continuing. "It has been hard the past couple of years," he said. "Hopefully we'll keep going. We'll get some good years again, and I'll get fired back up again."

Industry at risk of losing experienced beekeepers

Australia has around 1,500 commercial beekeepers, with approximately 800 of those supplying Hive + Wellness Australia, which markets the Capilano brand.

Chief operating officer of Hive + Wellness Australia Ben McKee said they were facing the worst honey crop in their history.

"Lack of rain, which is affecting the flowering patterns of trees in turn, is affecting the beekeepers' ability to get honey," Mr McKee said.

"And with the added problem of bushfires, we find our beekeepers running from town to town trying to get out of the way of bushfires as well, which has complicated the industry at the moment."

Mr McKee said honey prices would rise as production dropped.

"We're doing all we can to raise prices so that our beekeepers, even though they're getting less honey, [they're] getting more money for it to keep them alive," he said.

"The reality is our honey might not be on special any more and retail prices may go up because our prices are going up to beekeepers and that's going to flow through to what's happening on the retail shelves."

While Mr McKee acknowledged beekeepers were familiar with persisting drought conditions, he did believe the industry was at risk of losing experienced keepers. "Every time we have conditions like this we lose beekeepers, it becomes too hard," he said.

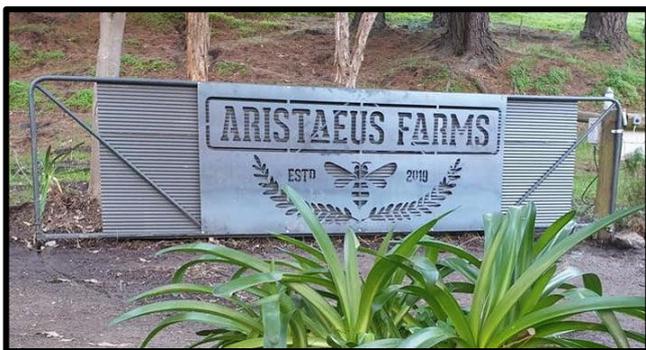
"[For beekeepers] keeping their people employed is an important part of the industry. Because next year if conditions are better, we still need the same skill base."



Severe weather conditions have reduced the amount of nectar available for honey bees to eat.

Cudlee Creek Bushfire

As you're all aware, the Cudlee Creek bushfire has devastated the Adelaide hills. Honey-producing business Aristaeus Farms have lost everything! Their house sadly went up in flames in the evening of Friday 19 December. Absolutely everything has gone including their beekeeping equipment and all business-related items. Thankfully the bees and other animals survived but some spare hives etc were also lost.



However, not all beekeepers were so lucky. The Advertiser reported on Saturday, 4 January, that fires destroyed 510 beehives in Coonalpyn and Padthaway, affecting 12 apiarists.

Public land access would help SA beekeepers and almonds

Article written by Quinton McCallum
22 Nov 2019



KNOW HOW: University of Adelaide's Katja Hogendoorn and SAAA president, Ben Hooper, spoke at the Australian Almonds forum, held in Loxton recently.

THE South Australian almond industry has been presented with an attractive proposition to help the beekeeping industry improve public land availability for pollination purposes, by SA Apiarists Association president Ben Hooper.

Speaking at the [Australian Almond Research and Development Forum](#) in Loxton last month, Mr Hooper said better access to public land sites in SA would allow beekeeping businesses to expand and provide better hives to the almond industry for pollination.

Currently only 200 public land sites are available for beekeepers in SA compared to 2000 in Tasmania, 4500 in Vic, 8500 in NSW, 6500 in Qld and 7500 in WA.

"We are a long way behind and it doesn't help our industry and it certainly doesn't help the SA almond industry," Mr Hooper said. "Coupled with that, we have suspended sites which means half of our available sites are out of action due to some sort of controlled burning."

Using production calculations, Mr Hooper estimated that each additional public land site made available to beekeepers could result in about \$231,000 of almond production and a quarter of a full time equivalent working position.

GMO Honey??

*Edited article provided by Eugene McEwen
from GMOs Revealed, November 2019 (internet)*

"In regards to public land, each public land site can hold 100 hives in general," he said. "Let's say each of these public land sites are of high quality to bee nutrition and allow us to provide a very good pollination hive. That coupled with the fact that one full-time equivalent employee can manage 400 hives.

The general stocking rate in an almond orchard is 6.7 hives a hectare, with a general yield of 2.2 tonnes a hectare and the general price at farmgate is \$7 a kilogram at this point in time. 100 hives could generally service about 15ha of almonds. That 15ha would generally yield about 33,000kg of almonds, giving us \$231,000 generated."

Mr Hooper said public land availability was a major issue for the beekeeping industry, but also the almond industry. "Access to public land is vital for us in terms of honeybee producers but also in supplying hives to the almond industry," he said.

"Basically every commercial beekeeping business or company in Australia will be relying on public land access at some point in time during their production year.

"They are the number one protected areas for the richest sources of nutrition for building bees, particularly in autumn and winter periods where we need to build bees just prior to delivering them for almond industry use, which makes it crucial for our expansion."

Also making this a pertinent issue for SA almond growers is the looming restriction on public land availability in QLD, with the state an important source of bees for almond pollination.

A sunset clause was enacted in 2007, which would completely remove the Qld beekeeping industry's access to public land sites in 2024 if not overturned, and consequently eliminate the state as a source of hives for SA almond growers.

This story first appeared in the Stock Journal.

As GMO crops spread across the world, more and more people are becoming concerned about the health risks associated with food that's been genetically modified – and with the growing amount of pesticide being used. Making the decision to go GMO-free is a huge step towards protecting health, but it's not always easy to be certain about a product's true GMO status ... and here is a produce that's especially difficult to regulate.

How do you know if your honey is free of GMOs, and what should you keep in mind if you happen to buy this sweet treat?

This issue is actually far more complex than it ought to be. Here are some things to consider – and you might be shocked at what's going on with a food that's supposed to be a healthy alternative to refined sugar.

Sadly, the United States produces only a fraction of the honey it used to – in fact in 2017 the production of honey was the second-lowest in 30 years. There are likely many factors that are driving this decline, but honey bee populations have been decimated by Colony Collapse Disorder and many blame the rise in glyphosate and other pesticides.

In addition to this GMO crops and the farming practices caused by this rise have made keeping honey bees difficult. Rather than acres of prairie or rotating crops, open spaces are now being filled with modified corn, sugar beets, and soy. Corn that is not rotated yearly with another crop is more vulnerable to certain insects, and is then sprayed with neonicotinoids to combat pests. Recent studies conclude that these pesticides kill bees and reduce colonies over time. There are countries which have seen a notable decrease in honey bees and therefore in honey production, which has led to the fact that 70% of consumed honey is imported.

It's difficult to guarantee that honey is organic, even when it's produced by farmers whose intent is to keep their product organic and non-GMO. This is because of the nature of bees – typically, bees will roam over a fairly consistent amount of space. Organic honey is produced on a set amount of acreage that must be free of GMOs and pesticides.

However, bees (like most things in the wild) are not entirely predictable. Some might venture farther than the allotted “safe” space. In addition to that, pollen from GM crops can blow into traditionally grown fields and crossbreed or contaminate organic areas.

The safety and original source of honey can be identified in a lab. But when honey is ultra-pasteurised, the process eliminated markers that labs can use to determine the presence of GMOs, pesticides, and the geographic location where the honey was produced. The process can destroy enzymes and many of the factors that make honey beneficial, so it is important to make sure that the raw honey is used.

Beware of “Fake Honey”

Fake honey is a thing! According to a study a lot of the honey on our shelves [in the US and some overseas countries] is not real honey. Much of the problem stems from honey imported from a country where the guidelines are even less strict, and “honey” often is made with corn syrup and flavourings. As incomprehensible as it seems, some companies also often add corn syrup or table sugar to ultra-pasteurised honey to make it sweeter.

There is a “sugar-free” honey on the market that is simply not honey at all.

The key to ensuring that your honey is not fake is all in the pollen. Because pollen can be traced to the product's origin, it's easy to identify products that are mixed with imported “honey” or other imposters, as well as identifying whether the honey has been exposed to contaminants, pesticides, or GMO crops. Ultra-pasteurised honey has all the pollen removed, which leaves the door open to counterfeit sweeteners being smuggled in.

Here in SA we all should be ultra-aware of allowing GMO into this state.

According to an ABC News report of 19 December 2019, the South Australian Government will let mainland farmers grow genetically modified (GM) crops from the start of 2020, sidestepping State Parliament which has twice blocked the plan — and could do so a third time.

New regulations allowing growers to plant GM crops from January 1 everywhere in the state except Kangaroo Island have today been introduced.

Parliament could still block these new regulations, but they will not have an opportunity to do so until sittings resume in February.

The new rules have the same effect as previous regulations that were struck down by the Labor Opposition and crossbenchers in Parliament.

A Government attempt to get a bill through Parliament to lift the GM moratorium also failed in the final sitting week of 2019.

BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER REPORT

Welcome to 2020. I hope everyone had a lovely holiday break.

Last year produced some honey flows so the relief from that certainly raised spirits in the beekeeping world. However, the lack of queens due to drought and bushfires has increased pressure. With this shortage and some queens in hives going AWOL, it's important to maintain hive strength and prevent the hive from dying out and/or becoming robbed. This can be achieved by: uniting hives, putting in nucs if spits were done earlier, or making the most of capped queen cells that the bees have created themselves.

The Bee Health Survey has been conducted again, closing on 31 December. Thank you to all who completed the survey; every little bit of data helps.

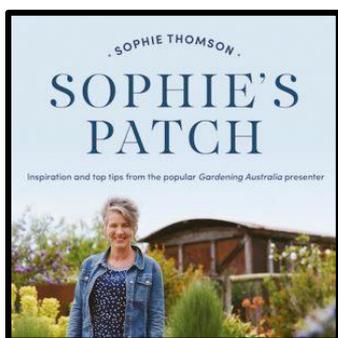
April is not that far away and that means it will be sugar shake month. Conducting a sugar shake is a great way to test whether exotic pests like

Varroa mite, tropilaelaps mite and braula fly are present in your hives. Beekeepers in coastal regions near a port and suburban beekeepers are a vital part of the surveillance network for identifying these very much unwanted pests.

Many of you are already signed up to the volunteer sugar shake program and we appreciate your ongoing efforts to support this initiative. For those of you who aren't, it's not too late. A fellow beekeeper may offer you the use of their sugar shake to test your own hives, or you can make your own sugar shake jar by following the instructions available from the Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW website: www.beekeepers.asn.au/news/2018/3/14how-to-make-a-sugar-shake-jar

The Code of Practice recommends that a sugar shake, alcohol wash or drone uncapping is conducted at least twice a year from a minimum of one hive per apiary. Remember these tests should be conducted at least four months apart.

Teagan Alexander
Bee Biosecurity Officer



Sophie Thomson – gardening commentator, author, garden consultant ... and co-patron of Beekeepers' Society of SA (with Simon Bryant, celebrity chef)

Below are some of her recommendations for the would-be garden enthusiast.

- 1. Plant bee-attracting plants and plan your garden so there is something in flower for them all year round. Long flowering herbs such as rosemary, borage and French lavender are a great place to start.

- 2. Look around your garden and observe the plants that bees like, and then plant more of these.
- 3. Lelave shallow bowls of water out for honey bees.
- 4. Stop using pesticides such as insecticides and herbicides. Even organic sprays such as pyrethrum, garlic, chilli and soap sprays will be toxic to bees if sprayed carelessly.
- 5. Let some of your vegies come up to flower once they are finished. Bees love the flowers of brassicas (vegies such as broccoli, cabbages, cauliflower, kale and mustards) so keep a few vegies in your garden at the end of the season just for bee forage.
- 6. Build a native bee hotel ... or a native bee Bnb. For more information follow the links on Sophie's Patch website.
- 7. Plant local native plants for our native bees (as there is no bee hotel without a restaurant!).
- 8. Leave some ground un-mulched for our earth dwelling native bees, which account for half of our local species.
- 9. Get a bee hive ... even if you aren't confident to have your own host one for a local beekeeper by contacting the Beekeepers' Society of South Australia and talk it over with your neighbours.
- 10. Do a beekeeping course through the Beekeepers' Society of South Australia.



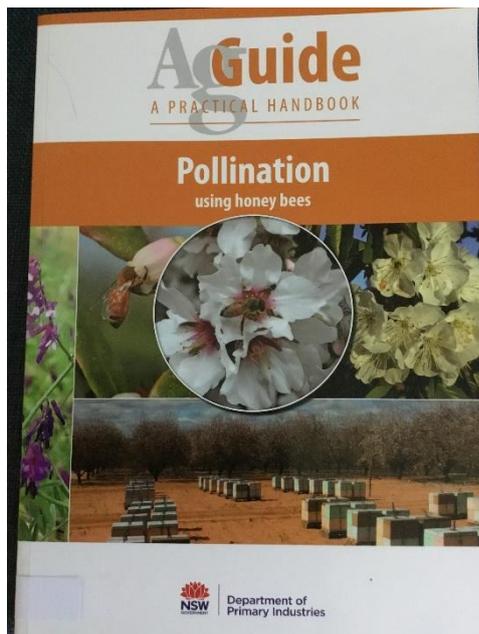


BOOK CORNER

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 (if they require assistance).

AG GUIDE **A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK**

Pollination Using Honey Bees



Produced by Education Delivery, Tocal College (NSW) for the Department of Primary Industries (NSW Government), 2018

This edition is one of several produced for the Department of Primary Industries and these books are also available as eBooks that can be purchased online for immediate download. See our librarian, Sue Speck, for assistance.

In this book beekeepers who are considering supplying honey bees for pollination to plant industries such as almonds will find information on how to:

- identify ideal foraging conditions for honey bees
- assess risks to bees at the pollination site
- assess hive strength
- prepare a commercial contract

For growers there is information about the conditions required for the welfare of bees and the optimum environment for their pollination activity. It talks about:

- a water supply for bees
- pollen and nectar for bees – there may be advantages in having other flowering plants nearby
- access roads
- a site plan and map
- safety information for workers
- knowledge of the risk to bees from pesticides
- a commercial contract

However, this book serves as a good general modern guide pertaining to beekeeping relative to all Australian states.

The clearly defined chapters contain concise and well-referenced information suitable not only for the novice beekeeper but also the experienced one who wants to gain further knowledge about important aspects such as pesticides, orchard design and management, hive management, plant structure and so on.

Appendix 2 contains an invaluable, detailed list of plants benefiting or relying on honey bee pollination, and describes their individual qualities and value to bees.

Edited by Barbara Horwood



BEE-FRIENDLY PLANT TO GROW

Plums (Prunus species)



Plums are entirely dependent on insect pollination and honey bees represent most insect visitors. Plums originated from the western area of Asia and have been cultivated for over 2,000 years. Most plums are self-incompatible and require other varieties for cross-pollination and fruit production.

The flowers of plums produce both nectar and pollen. Flowering is quick and often finished in two weeks if the weather is warm and favourable (no major wind or rain interruptions).

Not only is the flowering tree an attractive addition to the garden, but it provides a versatile fruit which is easily converted to delicious jams and chutneys for long-term consumption.



BEEKEEPING COURSES

WEA

BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS

Designed to assist those new to beekeeping in gaining a basic understanding of equipment requirements and hive management techniques.

Convenor: Keith Clark

Held regularly at WEA Centre. Phone the centre for details.

CRISPIN'S BEEKEEPING

Queen-making workshop
Beekeeping for Beginners

Contact: 0477 172 171

Email: crispin@crisinsbeekeeping.com

Bee Gallery in Penang, Malaysia

On a recent holiday to Penang, Mark and Barbara Horwood had the opportunity to visit a "boutique" honey store featuring displays of unusual styles of beehives.



Barbara and Mark Horwood



Store display



Mark Horwood inspecting a beekeeper's hive and contents



Unusual type of frame



RECIPES

Grilled Peaches with Ice Cream and Honey

Grilled peaches with honey and ice cream makes a perfect, simple and scrumptious summertime dessert, and we are in the peak of peach season.



Recipe from Robyn Stone, "Add a pinch" online

Ingredients

- peaches halved with pit removed
- **vanilla ice cream** optional
- honey to drizzle

How to Grill Peaches

Be sure to pick really ripe peaches when you buy them to ensure the best grilled peaches. If they aren't fully ripe, you can just leave them on the counter for a day or two and they will ripen. I've also been known to keep them in a brown paper bag on the counter to get the process going even more quickly.

The grill brings out the full flavor of the peaches, making them even juicier and more tender. Watch the grill closely to prevent any flare ups. To help prevent that, place the peaches on the grill flesh side down first. That way, the peaches have begun to soften and become juicier, but when you flip them the juices will pool inside the middle where the pit has been removed.

Pull your peaches off of the grill and then add them to a bowl with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, if you like.

But definitely, definitely, definitely do not forget the honey!!

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

