
BUZZWORD



Beekeepers' Society of South Australia Inc.

www.bees.org.au

NEWSLETTER

Edition 113

April 2022



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Many thanks to those who provide articles for the newsletter.

Contributors:

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Trevor Greenfield
Susan Speck
Paul Frost

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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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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2020-2021 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:

Sandra Ullrich
Josh D'Ambrosio
Trevor Greenfield
Aphrodite Noikou
Phil de Courcey

Co-ordinators:

Website:	James Field
Social Media:	Sandra Ullrich
Education:	Trevor Greenfield, Aphrodite Noikou

Grant Gotley

Swarm Collection Co-ordinator:

Sandra Ullrich

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

Membership fees for the financial year commencing 1st July 2021 are:

\$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.

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

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



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, 9 June**.

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

Useful links:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/bees

https://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/bees/beekeeper_registration

<https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/Livestock%20Act%201997.aspx>

<https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/lz/c/a/food%20act%202001.aspx>

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/about+us/legislation/food+legislation/food+legislation>

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

No further field days have been scheduled at this stage beyond end of April due to winter close-down of hives.

Information is available on the BSSA website.

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

President's Report



Dear BSSA Members and all who may read this:

Welcome to autumn. Leaves are changing colour, there has been rain and temperatures have been in single figures. I trust you are

all pulling out scarves and warm clothes and exploring heating.

I note animal behaviour, not least of my bees, changing as the days become shorter and colder. Bees are less active, numbers in hives are decreasing and the amount of pollen in hives has increased. Depending on where hives are and dependent on the behaviour of the hive itself,

will depend on when hives may be 'shut down' for the winter. Extra boxes are removed, consideration is made as to the strength and size of the hive and the location when deciding how much to leave for winter supplies, versus room to move. Some hives will continue to forage during winter and a lack of space maybe a consideration with the approach of spring.

Now is also a good time for extracting removed/excess honey, some of which you may wish to consider entering in the approaching Royal Adelaide Show Honey competition in September. This competition has classes for many types of honey, as well as wax, mead and honey cakes. It's quite easy to enter and a great way of promoting beekeeping as well as, I think, having fun.

A consideration before honey is extracted, however, should be whether to store frames for winter, should bees be at risk of getting through their supplies. Hives may be fed. However, saved frames of honey can also be reinserted into hives during winter. Do be aware that if storing frames of honey, sticky frames, or empty frames, be careful as to how they are stored. Protection from insects including ants and wax moths needs to be addressed.

Winter can also be a good time for making, painting, or buying new boxes, frames and tools, or repairing, repainting, cleaning old ones. Whilst hives need to be monitored over winter, particularly to ensure they do not go hungry, repair and preparation materials can also be made in anticipation of spring.

Our BSSA meetings continue on the second Monday of each month. In approaching meetings, we will have talks by PIRSA relating to pests and diseases, a professor from the university in relation to studies in bees, 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, who is one of our patrons and whose open garden weekend we have recently had a stall at. We will also be hosting our AGM in August. All of our positions do become vacant, thus please do consider if you'd like to hold one and/or assist the Society in other ways. We are always seeking ideas and members to assist.

Our Beginners and Intermediate classes prior to the meeting at Burnside will continue, whilst our field days at Tonsley will come to a halt over winter. Further, this year, as mentioned, has so far led to some shows and events that were cancelled last year, one being Sophie's Patch. Hopefully, that continues throughout the year.

Please continue to stay safe, enjoy autumn and what winter has to offer and try to have fun. Don't forget that there are many people willing to help if you have any questions or need physical help. Please 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.

**RESEARCH PROJECT:
THE EFFECT OF BEEKEEPING
PRACTICES ON REDUCING
AMERICAN FOULBROOD**

Charlize van der Mescht is currently undertaking a Master of Environmental Science at the University of Western Australia (UWA). As part of her

qualification she is undertaking a research project on whether changes in beekeeper practices can reduce the spread of American foulbrood (AFB).

One component of her research involves conducting a survey of beekeepers. The only requirement to participate is that participants are beekeepers in Australia. The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes. Below is a link to an introductory video. She is planning on closing the survey at the end of June.

**Link to introductory video:
<https://youtu.be/d91upOa07Ds>**

**Link to survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AFBSurvey1>**

If you'd like to know more about her survey or if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let her or her supervisor, Peter, know.

**Charlize van der Mescht
0493 412 414
22513515@student.uwa.edu.au**

**Dr Peter Speldewinde
peter.speldewinde@uwa.edu.au
(08) 9842 0845**



**Education Committee Report
12 April 2022**

As part of this report, we would like to express our thanks to all those people who

have provided support and encouragement on the journey in providing a more comprehensive education offering so far. As we inch towards our goals, we are grateful for the patience of those who have put their names down for more training yet have had to wait on outcomes still not assured.

We do, however, have some good news to report. On 6 April 2022 the first accredited Certificate III in Beekeeping course in South Australia began. This was run from the Ashton Oval and Community Sports Centre – our future home for training if all goes well.

The first three days covered some of the theoretical portions of the course but were well received by the initial 12 trainees. Of these, 7 are BSSA members, and 5 are South Australian Apiarists' Association (SAAA) members. This course will run over the next 10-12 months.



*Kneeling – (L-R) Serina Biddle, Aphrodite Noikou
At back – (L-R) David Campbell (RTO), Paul Van Eyk, Rossi von der Borch, Ulrich Schade, Peter Mew (Trainer), Gavin Pearce, James Gordon, Trevor Greenfield (Ring in)*

We have been working in conjunction with David Campbell (Bee Prepared as the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and Peter Mew (as the Bee Prepared Trainer). The BSSA Education Committee have partnered with them in order to facilitate training for the first group of trainees who hopefully will go on to become trainers in their own right, in order to provide BSSA with a pool of qualified trainers in the future.

At this stage, the Basic Beekeeping Skill Set course is likely to coincide with Term 3 of the current school year, and will run for 10 to 12 weeks. This is an accredited course that is intended will comprise only BSSA members.

The initial Certificate III course together with the later Basic Beekeeping Skill Set course are being funded by a project grant from the Department for Innovation and Skills. While this is appreciated, there is still more work to be done to ensure that ongoing funding under the Subsidised Training List program is secured. Members' assistance to support these efforts will be vital.

The cost for trainees for these courses is approximately \$1700-\$1900 for the Cert III in Beekeeping dependant on the optional units chosen, and approximately \$700-\$800 for the Basic Beekeeping Skill Set and represents about 70% subsidy. Both courses are principally skills based with definite skills outcomes.

What's the difference between an accredited course and one that isn't you ask?

Accredited courses are nationally recognised and have documented aims, course outlines, and knowledge and skills outcomes. The training organisations that deliver these courses have to comply to defined educational standards and deliver courses for a specific number of hours over a definite timeframe. They must be registered and use accredited trainers. Un-accredited courses can be set up and run by anyone. They don't necessarily comply with any defined standards and the course material may not comply with any of the recognised training guidelines or outcomes. Most beekeeping training falls into this category.

What's the BSSA Education Committee doing about this situation?

We realise that many members probably won't want or need to do an accredited course but would still like to do some more targeted training. This training should be

skills based just like the accredited courses are but be carried out by members of the BSSA with support to help them. To do this we need to deliver it over more time than before meetings sessions allow and using more equipment and to be able to do this consistently.

To cater for this, we are in the final steps of securing the Ashton Oval and Community Sports Centre as a venue to host training. This will give us the building facilities we need.

The Education Committee recognise that the accredited courses contain much of our training needs, but it isn't always in the format that we can use. As a consequence, we are writing course outlines for many of the topics we see as being important or particularly useful to members. Like the accredited courses, these outlines are written around providing definite skills for trainees – not the 'chalk and talk' or 'information sharing' format. People will be expected to demonstrate that they can do things properly after attending the courses. This is competency-based learning.

In this way we aim to transfer skills that are useful to beekeepers, and to do it in a manner that is consistent with the national training guidelines. The topics being developed are intended to be taught as short courses. We envisage 2-hour, 4-hour, 1-day and 2-day duration topics depending on the requirements. We aim to have the most relevant courses written in the next few months and accessible first, followed by the remaining topics.

The fee structure for trainees is still to be determined. These topics would also be offered to non-BSSA members, but with higher fees than members.

In addition to this we have negotiated the use of two third parties' apiaries on an interim basis to use as training apiaries for courses run at Ashton. This will be in addition to our Clovelly Park apiary and will complement the work done there.

The securing of the Ashton Oval and Community Sports Centre as a venue is vital to be able to deliver on the planned increased training. Even so, we will be reliant on members' assistance in revamping the facilities there into suitable spaces for delivering training. Member volunteers with appropriate skills and qualifications will be asked to help install a stud wall, with gyprocking and insulation, shelving and electrical work. Offers of tools to assist in building beekeeping equipment would also be most welcome.

If you would like more information on the proposed topics or related matters, or if you would like to offer services for setting up our training venue, please contact any of the following Education Committee members:

Trevor Greenfield 0419 955 794
tgreenfield@internode.on.net
 Aphrodite Noikou 0403 944 603
aphroditenoikou@gmail.com
 Grant Gotley 0428 160 000
bees_sa@outlook.com

BSSA Education Committee

RECENT EVENTS

The KI Build A Box Project UPDATE

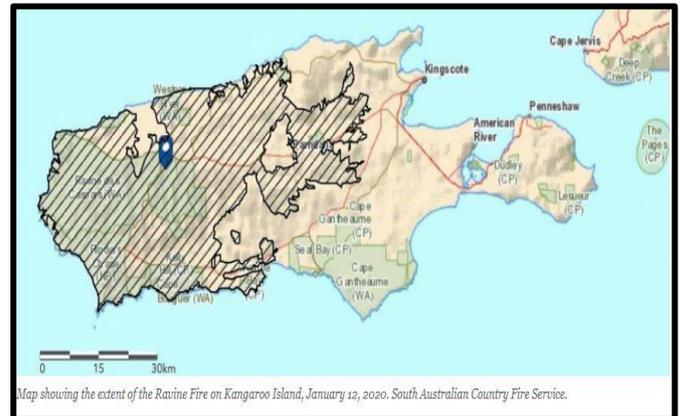
What started as something akin to "BlazeAid for Beekeepers" became the "KI Build A Box Project".

- It aimed to provide labour for new gear
- Involved 35 individual volunteers with 6 volunteering multiple times
- The major build occurred in 2020 and was ongoing in 2021
- Funding was available from a government grant

The initial target was to build 1000 boxes, 500 lids, 500 bases and 10,000 frames.

The Extent of the Issue

- 1500 of 4500 hives were destroyed
- There are approximately 50 beekeepers on KI
- Only 15 are commercial or semi-commercial
- 5 were most directly affected
- 2/3 of the national park area was affected





Damaged beehives on Kangaroo Island. (ABC News: Casey Briggs)

Scenes of destruction

Individual Losses

Those who had:

- 800 hives – less than 73 remaining (also loss of house, spare gear, truck)
- 900 hives – less than 500 remaining
- 400 hives – less than 110 remaining
- 150 hives – less than 50 remaining

Efforts of Beekeepers' Society of SA



Assistance Provided

- Approximately 50 person weeks
- 1700 boxes branded and wax dipped
- 750 bases, 750 lids, 19,000 frames, 100 emlocks
- Includes 200 nucs
- 150 hessian bags for smokers
- 400 kg stainless steel mesh (lid part, entrance gate)
- Assistance in building shed, honey house, generator shed, living quarters, repairs to hive loader, modifications to wax dipper, install panelling saw, repair wax melter, electrical wiring

Other Outcomes

- Improved mental health of beekeepers, wives and partners
- Efforts were much appreciated by KI beekeepers
- Project concluded within budget

Ongoing Work

- New shed, workshop fitout
- New racking, extension line
- Interior honey packing room
- Mezzanine to become residence
- Off-grid power, second 137 kl water tank





Other Considerations

- All beekeepers were affected even if no hives were lost – honey production is down 40%
- Ligurian bee on KI is purest remaining strain of Ligurian in the world
- KI is a bee sanctuary – all equipment has to be built there
- Recovery is a long-term proposition. It will take 3 to 5 years to build up hive numbers to previous levels. It will take 5 to 20 years before burnt scrub areas flower again
- Mental health for affected beekeepers improved through help and discussion of problems
- Diversification of apiary businesses on KI
- Rebuilding cost for every 500 hive business is about \$1 million to \$1.5 million

A big thanks to all who volunteered.

Future BSSA support will be through informal arrangements made directly with beekeepers



Open Garden
Easter 2022
16, 17 and 18 April

BSSA members were once again on hand at our marquee to promote and answer questions about our club and beekeeping in general. 2022 was particularly special as it was the 15th and last open garden at Sophie's Patch.



Kay Gosnold (volunteer), Trish Blanks (Secretary), Costa, Bruce Keen (volunteer)



Costa with Mark Horwood, Bruce Keen and Barbara Horwood (volunteers)

Costa Georgiadis, landscape artist and TV host of Gardening Australia was a welcome guest at the weekend to delight young and old as "guru" and "garden gnome" in person!

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

My Black Belt in Beekeeping!! (Beware of the beekeepers' Bad Back)

Since arriving in South Australia some years ago and obtaining beekeeping reserve licenses for Nixon Skinner Reserve and Millbrook Reservoir I have ardently pursued my love of beekeeping.

This interest has included working with commercial operators and as a sideliner in places as diverse as Coonalpyn, Cambrai, Bald Hills, Carrickalinga, Kangaroo Island, Nixon Skinner Reserve, Millbrook, Henry Short's Orange Orchard (now a housing estate) and Bugle Ranges.

As anybody who has had anything to do with beekeeping knows this can involve lots of heavy lifting, particularly when one realises a 10- frame full-depth super can weigh around 40 Kg.

The result for me was one day when I attempted to stand my right leg gave way. The next day my GP gave me a referral to neurosurgeon, Dr Cindy Molloy. In observing my X-rays she arranged to operate the next day. Eight days later when I left hospital it felt like magic ... I could walk properly again ... thanks to the brilliant work of Dr Molloy.

However, the experience taught me that beekeeping requires you to take every precaution to protect your back.

Consequently, I use every device and strategy possible to prevent a recurrence of such a disabling situation. One such device is my 'black belt', recommended to me by another beekeeper - a supportive belt fitted with neodymium magnets.



As well as the physical support provided by the shape of the belt the neodymium magnets provide a therapeutically enabling strong magnetic field.

For illustrative purposes I have shown the black belt being worn externally to my bee suit. However, I normally wear the belt underneath my bee suit but with a singlet underneath it.



Neodymium was discovered in 1885, with Neodymium-iron-boron magnets being developed in the 1980s. Neodymium rare earth magnets, often referred to as super or magic magnets are very powerful magnets able to produce very powerful magnetic fields. Neodymium magnets have been incorporated into medical devices such as magnetic resonance imaging devices and are used in magnetic field therapy for a range of medical conditions. Neodymium magnets have also been used by

astronauts to compensate for the lack of a planetary magnetic field.

While usually safe for most people to wear low-intensity static magnets it is probably not a good idea for anybody who is pregnant or wearing medical devices such as an insulin pump or pacemaker. I have however found the belt to be very effective in providing relief from bad backs.

Hopefully my experience serves as a warning to others of the need to be extra careful when working with heavy beehives.

*Paul J. Frost
Adelaide*

Hive Stands

*Helpful Hints provided by BSSA member
Paul Frost*

Having managed hives in many parts of South Australia I have had to cope with some problematic ant situation in some locations. On occasions the ants have been so troublesome that entire hives of bees have absconded. On other occasions slugs have also become non-wanted residents of my beehives.

Attempting to remedy the situation, I have resorted to various types of hive stands, as depicted in Figure 1.

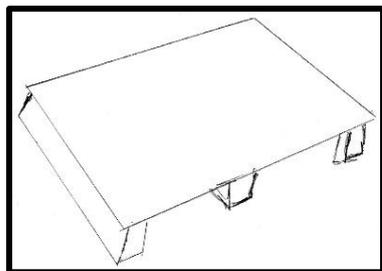


Figure 1

This first attempt was simply to move the hives higher off the ground away from ant

trails. However, it was a failure. The ants and slugs easily climbed up into the hives.

My next attempt was as per figure 2, to place the hives higher off the ground. Again, that was not successful; the ants simply scaled the increased height.

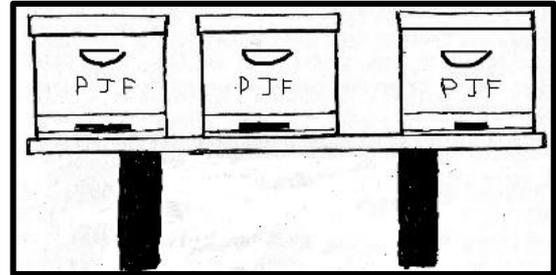


Figure 2

Not to be outdone I then placed the legs of my hives in cans of water or oil as per figure 3. For a brief period that worked ... until leaves fell into the cans of water or oil. The ants then simply walked across the leaf bridges and up into the hives again.

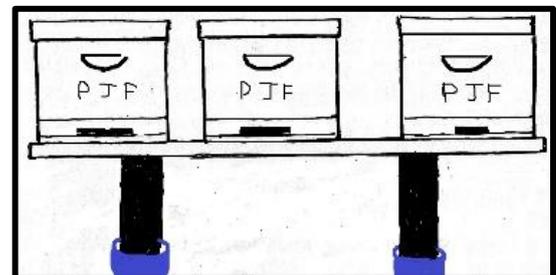


Figure 3

My next attempt was as per Figure 4, and that has finally solved the problem.



Figure 4

This arrangement consists of four bolt legs each capped by a termite/ant cap. As an extra precaution I apply grease to the top of each bolt leg and the underside of the capping.

Figure 5 is an example of one of my beehives atop one of these latest ant stands.



Figure 5

The hive also has a Bluebees vented bottom board to provide good ventilation, less opportunity for debris accumulation and a healthier hive.

As with many other challenges in beekeeping one simply keeps adapting until a solution is found which solves the problem.

Royal Australian Mint releases \$2 honey bee coin to mark bicentenary of the industry in Australia

By [Kate Midena](#) - Posted Sat 9 Apr 2022 – ABC News

The Royal Australian Mint has released a new coin, and there's a special buzz about it. Marking 200 years since the insect's introduction to Australia, the \$2 collector's coin features two honey bees, commemorating "both the remarkable creatures and conscientious beekeepers".

"We've got a role at the Mint to help tell the stories of Australia through coins. So we're

always on the lookout for significant events, anniversaries and organisations that we can commemorate through coins," Royal Australian Mint chief executive Leigh Gordon said. "The coin that we have, I think it's a particularly beautiful coin. It's got a couple of the honey bees, it's got Australian flowers and trees around the edges, and it's got a really rich sort of honey like coloured honeycomb in the centre.



The new honey bee coin, released by the Royal Australian Mint in 2022. (Supplied: Royal Australian Mint)

How the coin came about

Mr Gordon said the honey bee coin had been in the works "for about 14 months". "We've got a product development team here at the Mint that's putting their thinking caps on all the time. But we also get suggestions from the public," he said.

In this coin's case, the Mint worked with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council on both the concept and the execution. "We [wanted to] capture the essence of what they thought was important in the coin," Mr Gordon said. "And then we go through the process of actually designing something that looks beautiful, that we can manufacture here, that would attract people's attention and is of interest."

The honey bee coin is what is known as an "uncirculated coin" — so it's not one you will find in your spare change drawer. Rather, it is created as a collector's item that you have to purchase from the Mint — and Mr Gordon said one in four Australians considered themselves coin collectors.

"A lot of them describe what they see in their change, but certainly a number of people go out of their way to collect a particular theme

or a particular type of coin," he said. "Hopefully it'll strike a chord, particularly with those that have an interest in the honey industry — and it's a significant industry in Australia."

So, why the honey bee?

The Mint described the honey bee as small, yet mighty, "producing delicious honey and contributing to the country's agricultural success by pollinating crops". And Australia's honey industry is indeed significant. "There are about 20,000 beekeepers, somewhere in the order of 640,000 hives, and they make about 30,000 tonnes of honey each year," Mr Gordon said. "So it's quite a big industry, and that honey goes all over the world. So it's good to commemorate something like this."

Trevor Weatherhead, chair of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, said the humble honey bee is responsible for pollinating about two-thirds of Australia's crops.



"We all know we have the good 100 per cent Australian honey that's out there, people can enjoy that," he said. "But our biggest value is in the horticulture and agricultural industries, where it's been estimated that about \$14.2 billion worth of crops that are grown in Australia rely on honey bees for pollination. "They're some of the crops like almonds or watermelons, rockmelons, honeydews those sort of things. No bees, they don't get a crop."

Mr Weatherhead said the commercial bee hive population was "fairly steady", and the number of registered hives in Australia was increasing thanks to recreational

beekeepers who have hives in their backyard. "During the pandemic, there seems to have been a reasonable increase in the number of people keeping hives as a hobby. They sort of suddenly discovered that there's something that they can do [for bees] at home and there's been a big increase that way," he said. "They probably don't realise it but they're pollinating a lot of the backyard veggie gardens, whether it's something like zucchinis or if they're growing cucumbers or watermelons, as well as getting a bit of honey."

There are over 700,000 registered honey bee hives in Australia. (*ABC Rural: Bridget Herrmann*)

Storytelling through coins

The Australian Mint regularly releases coins to commemorate or honour different events and people. In 2020, they released a "donation dollar" — a legal tender designed to be given to people in need. Then, in 2021, a coin honouring Indigenous military service featuring artwork from Kalkadoon artist Chern'ee Sutton was released.

"Some recent really successful coins that we've had have been around the history of steam engines in Australia," Mr Gordon added. "We had a great coin last year that recognised the 50th anniversary of the Tamworth country music festival, and we obviously have honoured our first responders and our frontline workers through recent coins."

Mr Gordon said a key component of each coin produced was the storytelling aspect. "It is currency as a way of helping tell the stories of Australia," he said. "Capturing that, we take that role really seriously here at the Mint. It makes the people that we have working here — the passionate designers, the marketing people in manufacturing — it really gives them I guess a bit of a buzz in return, to do something that's appreciated by the Australian public."

Mr Weatherhead said the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council hoped the coin would

raise awareness of the importance of bees. "We've been amazed at the response," he said. "Those avid coin collectors, well, they've got something else to add to their collection now that's got a very good story behind it. And hopefully they'll realise that and every time they look at it, they'll think of the honey bee and think of how it helps feed us all."



RECIPES

The autumnal flavour of pears in a rich butter caramel, topped with a drizzle of honey, makes this a most delicious cake. Fresh, tinned or preserved pears can be used. Enjoy!!

HONEY CARAMEL TOPSY TURVY PEAR CAKE



(Recipe from Sally Wise, Weekend Australian Magazine, March 5/6 2022)

825 g pear halves (drained if tinned)
2 eggs
200 g white (granulated) sugar
125 ml milk
230 g self-raising flour
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
12 g salted butter, melted and cooled slightly

For the honey caramel:

125 g salted butter
125 g soft brown sugar
20g honey, plus 20 g extra for glazing

Method:

Preheat oven to 160 C (fan). Grease a 23 by 30 cm tin. Line the base with baking paper; grease again. To make the honey caramel, melt the butter, sugar and honey together. Bring to the boil and simmer for 1 minute, whisking. Pour into the base of the tin. Cut each pear half into four slices and place them decoratively over the caramel.

Using hand-held beater or a stand mixer, beat all the remaining ingredients for 2 minutes. Spoon the batter over the pears; then carefully level the mixture with a spatula, leaving it just slightly concave in the middle. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, or until a metal skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

Allow to stand for 5 minutes before turning the cake out onto a wire rack; the pears will be on top. Position a plate underneath the rack to catch any caramel runoff. Heat the extra honey in a saucepan until runny; then spoon over the cake. Cool for 15 minutes and then cut into squares to serve. Serves 8 – 12.

THE BEE-FRIENDLY GARDEN



SOME CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE BEE-FRIENDLY GARDEN

Sprays and Powders

If you use proprietary sprays and powders to control unwanted insects and other garden pests consider the effects that these will have on your own bees and all other beneficial insects and pollinators.

Bees are very susceptible to pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and their residues. You can decimate or at least severely compromise the health of the adult bees or brood in your hive with one careless application of spray. Many sprays available these days are systemic and they are absorbed into the living tissues and transportation systems of the plant. Any pollen, nectar or water droplets on the plant will be taken back to the hive by a foraging bee as nectar or pollen stored and eventually fed to the developing brood.

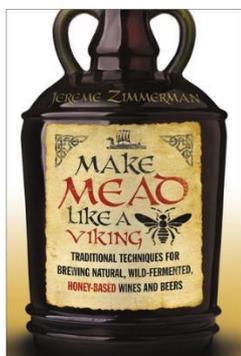
Topical sprays for either pests or disease do not discriminate between beneficial and pest insects and will harm or kill them all. Dusting powders such as derris dust, often labelled as a natural product, are also harmful to foraging insects and to your bees. You will perhaps decide to live with a few spots, chewed leaves and many perceived plant problems of a cosmetic nature rather than risk compromising your own colonies and those of other beekeepers.

Excerpt from The Australian Beekeeping Manual by Robert Owen, 2020



BOOK CORNER

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



Make Mead like a Viking

Author: Jereme Zimmerman

This book is described by one reviewer as a complete practical and entertaining guide to using the best ingredients and minimal equipment to create fun and flavourful brews. Ancient societies brewed flavourful and healing meads, ales, and wines for millennia using only intuition, storytelling, and knowledge passed down through generations with no fancy, expensive equipment or degrees in chemistry.

The book provides traditional techniques for brewing natural, wild-fermented, honey-based wines and beers.

FOR SALE

Beehive Ant Stands

Ant stands: Excellent for keeping ants/slugs out of beehives. \$20 each.



(Below is an example of hive standing on ant stand)



Hive stands can be purchased by contacting (mobile) 0417 833 768