



## ***Dates and events***

- 7th Nov Field Day weather permitting
- 7th Nov Bush Mates at Harrington Grove contact Lindsay 0417 952 585
- 18 Nov Xmas party, please contact Anthony for bookings, place Bohemian Euro Restaurant 1/5 The Old Northern Rd, Narellan NSW 2567 there will be no club meeting in November,
- 14 November Festival of Fisher's Ghost please contact Anthony if you would like to assist
- 5th Dec Field day weather permitting
- 16th December Club Meeting

## ***Word from the president (By Ralph Skerra)***



Summer is in full swing and fortnightly hive inspection are recommended.

We are looking for the health of the colony, signs of starvation, any surplus honey to harvest and possible swarming indicators. This is a good time to consider Upgrading a weak hive with a young queen. It is the season for Hive splitting, Frame renewing Adding boxes, but only when nectar and pollen are flowing.

Could you please let Lindsay know if any of our members without email are in need of a hardcopy of the news letter.

## A Picture tells a thousand words



A great shot taken of Alistair and Anthony with their Life membership awards

**Alistair Kilfeather**

was president of our club for the last 7 years. He has also held other roles within the club. He joined the club in 1997. He is happy to share his knowledge with anybody who asks or will listen..

**Anthony Martin**

has had interest in bees for over 40 years. He is one of the club founders. The hard working, achiever type of the club. He holds several offices like apiary officer and supplies, equipment.... He also organises bus trips and events. Anthony is ready to share his wealth of knowledge with you.

Both Anthony and Alistair are available as mentors to members. Do you have a good picture or article you like to share? Do not hesitate to let Maher know

## Photo from the members



Thanks to Doug Nichols for sharing this photo of one of gis girls working hard

## Senior Beekeepers

All ABA Members with beehives are reminded that by law they must register their hives with the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Some record the registration details for all members in their Club records. ... 'Bee' warned - penalties can apply.

Note: calling all Seniors! Did you know that Senior Card Holders are entitled to a discount on their DPI registration?

Follow the links below to go to the DPI web pages dealing with all aspects of beekeeping. Beekeeper Registration Link: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/honey-bees/beekeeper-registration>

## News from your Amateur Beekeepers Association



The ABA news letter features articles like: \*Spring hive Management, \*Women Beekeepers Calendar for 2016, \*ABA NSW Centralised Membership Management System and more. Here are two articles as an example of the value you get from our ABA newsletter. The ABA news letter is sent to all members by email. If you are a member and need any assistance getting the news, could you please see Lindsay at the next meeting

## American Foul Brood (AFB)

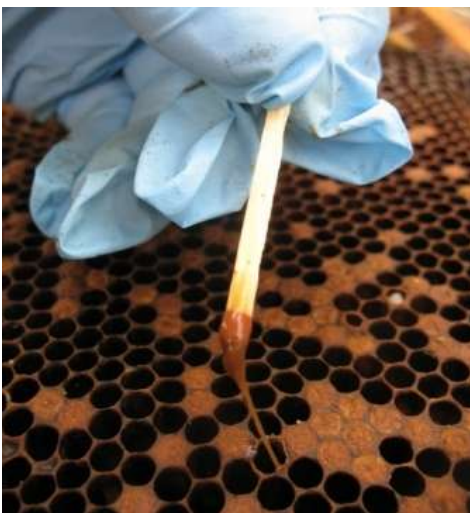
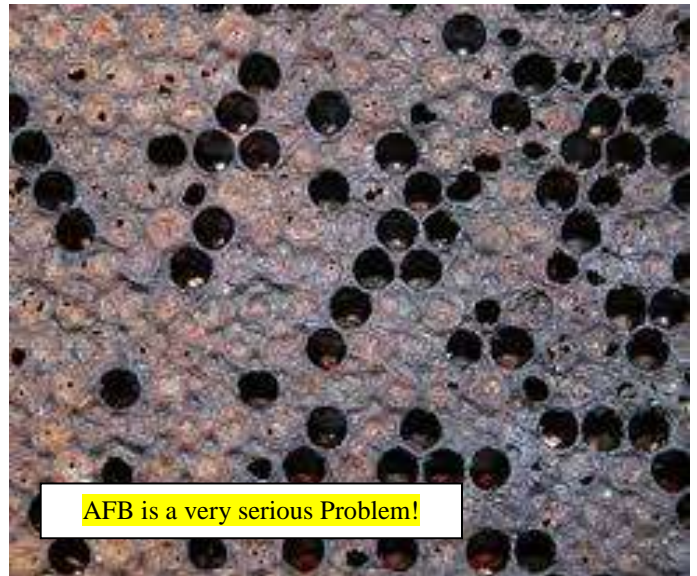
AFB is caused by a spore forming bacteria, *Paenibacillus larvae*. This bacterium is specific to honey bees and is the most serious brood disease of honey bees. Impact AFB spores infect the brood in the first two days of the larval stage. They are contained in the honey-pollen mix provided by the nurse bees to the developing larvae.

The spores turn into an active vegetative form which rapidly multiplies and produces millions of new spores. This kills the larvae which will now contain billions of spores.

### Life Cycle

The brood is killed in the early pupae stage after the larva has spun its cocoon to transform into a pupa. The cell is covered and the dead pupa is not immediately discovered by the bees.

The dead pupa turns brown and as it decays will produce a fish or glue like odor, particularly if the weather is humid. Eventually the dead pupa dries and is reduced to a scale which sticks quite strongly to the bottom of the cell. Sometimes the fine thread like tongue of the dead pupae may be present.



When the cell containing the dead larvae is discovered the spores are easily transferred to the mouth parts of the worker bees as the scale and decaying material is removed. It is these spores that will be inadvertently used by worker bees to infect other larvae when feeding young brood.

The spores are resistant to both heat and cold and may remain viable for many tens of years.

If in doubt, take a sample for diagnosis and send it to : State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Officer-in-charge, if sending by Courier: Woodbridge Road, Menangle NSW 2568) along with your contact details.

The NSW DPI has a standard notification form available as a pdf



download, Google: "NSW DPI, specimen submission form".

Did you miss the Call for Australian Leptospermum honey (aka jelly bush, or Australian manuka)?

Here are the contact details again: Nural Cokcetin Professor Liz Harry  
Project Coordinator Principle Investigator University of Technology Sydney  
University of Technology Sydney University of Technology Sydney  
0405 284 718 0404 643 181 or 02 9810 6461  
Nural.Cokcetin@uts.edu.au

## The potentially devastating Large African Hive Beetles are the latest bee pests in the spotlight

A significant number of large scarab beetle species in South Africa eat bee brood, in attacks which are usually fast and lethal to the colonies, in areas with a similar climate to favored beekeeping regions in Australia.

The University of Sydney is looking into the lifecycle of the beetles in a study supported Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (HIA) and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture.

If Large African Hive Beetles became endemic in Australia, the potential impacts would be substantial, including initial restrictions on hive movements, the need for beetle exclusion devices to be fitted to all hives, and significant colony losses in the early stages.



## Native bees are nuts about macas

Queensland macadamia growers say there are early signs more record harvests of 47,000 tonnes-in-shell this year. Native bees are being credited with some of the success. According to Chris Fuller, Kin Kin Native Bees pollination consultant native beehives are now increasingly placed in nut plantations.



## A new overseas Guide to Help Beekeepers Detect, Control Varroa Mite Infestations

The Honey Bee Health Coalition is dedicated to improving the health of honey bees and other pollinators, released a guide today aimed at helping beekeepers strengthen hive health by controlling the Varroa mite (Varroa destructor).

The guide, which can be found at <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa>, lays out an Integrated



Pest Management (IPM) strategy for managing Varroa mite infestations; including how to monitor mite levels, chemical and non-chemical methods to control the mites, and methods to determine which treatment is appropriate for a beekeeper to use at different phases in a colony's life cycle.

Posted HBHC Admin

## Invasive ants found in New Zealand, Australia and Argentina to carry honey bee pathogens September 2015

Argentine ants (*Linepithema humile*) invasive pest spread throughout most Zealand. They are listed in the 100 of worst invasive animals, with abundant widespread populations found on continent except Antarctica. The team years collecting and analysing genomic Argentine ant populations in New Australia and Argentina.

They host the same Deformed Wing found in bees and wasps in New this virus has contributed to declines in populations around the world.

ants are known to raid beehives and also forage in the same environment as honey bees. Such close contact is bad for bees, as their association promotes pathogen exchange.



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Virus strain Zealand, and bee Argentine

Read more at: <http://phys.org/news/2015-09-invasive-ants-virus-honey-bee.html#jCp>

## SA hobby beekeepers being pro-active

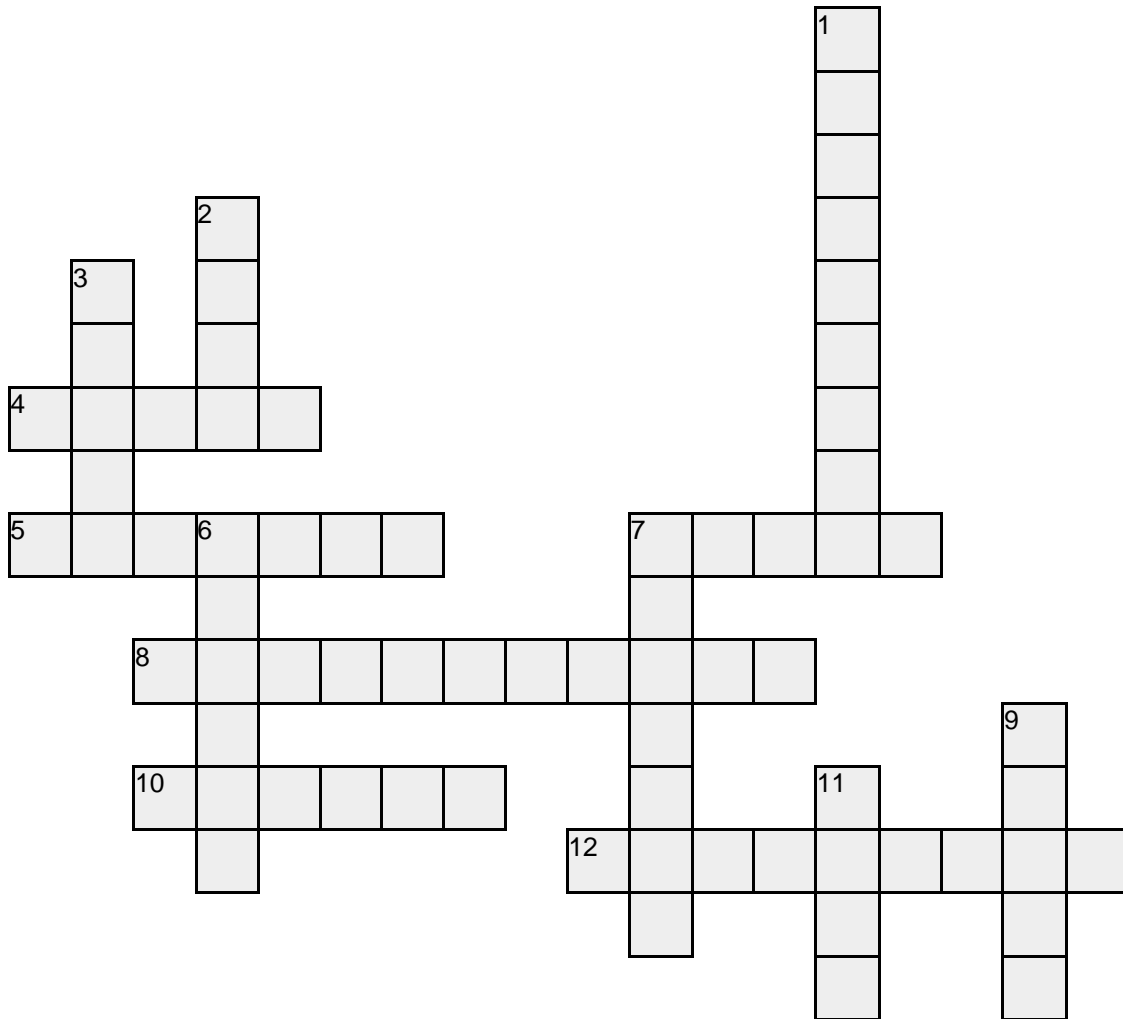
One of the biggest risks when an exotic pest reaches Australia is that no-one notices, allowing it to spread and making it harder to eradicate once it is detected.

Amateur beekeepers becoming an integral part of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP), boosting the effectiveness of efforts to detect bee pests such as Varroa mite far beyond what could be achieved through government funding alone.

“By working with hobby (and professional) beekeepers we can cover a lot more ground, and ensure that many more hives are regularly checked for signs of unwanted visitors.” (Sam Malfroy, of Plant Health Australia PHA).

Mr Malfroy said bio-security is everyone's responsibility – government, agricultural industries and the community. This program is a perfect example of a partnership approach amongst all sectors to keep exotic pests, such as Varroa, out of Australia.

# Bees Crossword



## Across

4. A sweet treat made by bees
5. It's used to make candles
7. A group of bees looking for a new home
8. It's necessary for the production of fruit
10. A sweet liquid bees collect from flowers
12. A person who takes care of bees

## Down

1. A machine used to remove honey from frames
2. A bee house
3. A male bee
6. A tool used to calm bees
7. A part of the bee's body used for defense
9. The only female that lays eggs in the hive
11. It protects the beekeeper's face from the bees

## Restricting the movement of hives the best way to stop the spread of pest and disease?



Unfortunately restricting the movement of hives could have a significant impact on the production of fruits, vegetables and nuts if it happened during pollination season.

Plant Health Australia Workshop : Acari tested likely scenarios that would follow a detection of Varroa, including introducing quarantine zones, checking hives and destroying those infected with the mite, and movement restrictions for bees and equipment

within a zone or state, and between states. Both government and industry stakeholders took part in the exercise.



The work shop also revealed the importance of early detection in limiting the spread of Varroa, the need for horticultural and pollination-dependent industries to contribute to the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program, and the need for increased awareness among growers of the potential risks to their business of bee pests.

### *Fipronil named as fourth insecticide to pose risk to honeybees*

A widely used insect nerve agent has been labeled a "high acute risk" to honeybees by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). A similar assessment by the EFSA on three other neo-nicotinoid insecticides preceded the suspension of their use in the European Union.

"The insecticide fipronil poses a high acute risk to honeybees when used as a seed treatment for maize," (European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in a statement. "EFSA was asked to perform a risk assessment of fipronil [by the European commission], paying particular regard to the acute and chronic effects on colony survival and development and the effects of sub-lethal doses on bee mortality and behavior." (theguardian.com/environment/2013/jul...)

Sub-lethal exposure to neo-nicotinoids impaired honey bees winterization before proceeding to colony collapse disorder Department of Environmental Health, Harvard School of Public Health, Landmark Center West, Boston, MA, USA 2014)

In aerobic soils, fipronil has a half-life of 122 to 128 day s. [www.toxipedia.org/display/toxipedia](http://www.toxipedia.org/display/toxipedia)

*Please read and observe the instructions when handling APITHOR Small Hive Beetle Traps ! <https://www.apithor.com.au>*



## Participating in Chalk brood Research



By Jody Gerdts

I am writing to you to request your participation and assistance with chalk brood research that I am conducting as part of my PhD Studies with La Trobe University in partnership with the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC) .

The attached letter details the problems associated with chalk brood in *Apis mellifera* colonies and describes my proposed studies. The new Australian study will test how much bee behaviour changes chalkbrood infection levels within a hive. The project will investigate colony resistance to chalkbrood through hygienic behaviour as well as innate larval immunity to infection, and identify lines of honey bees that exhibit good hygienic behaviour. For more information on Project Design , Project Aims, Participant Requirements of this meaningful and valuable project contact me on 0427075662, or

email [beescientifics@gmail.com](mailto:beescientifics@gmail.com) , or Bee Scientifics 4 Quick Street Bendigo, Vic 3550 Australia

## CSIRO scientist calls for improved agricultural and remnant vegetation management for bees (Posted 23 Sep 2015)

ABA Rural reports:

- keeping remnant vegetation on farms was necessary to support both the introduced European honey bee and native bees
- the whole Australian agricultural industry, need both a healthy bee keeping industry that can provide hive bees when we want them and, critically, we need a diverse wild bee community
- avoid as much as possible to knock out any last, isolated trees
- keep those trees or remnant vegetation areas free of pesticides, try to ensure they're not invaded by weeds, don't till the area if it's not going to be used
- These aren't hard things to do, it's more a matter of being careful with how we use the land

Dr Saul Cunningham has won the 2015 Australian Ecology Research Prize in recognition of his 20 years studying the role of bees in crop pollination.



## Are beekeepers facing an apocalypse before bees do?

Tim Tucker, president of the American Beekeeping Federation recently said: “. .... I believe we’ll always have bees. ... [But] unless things change, what’s in jeopardy is the commercial beekeeping industry.” “Beekeepers are indeed “working nearly twice as hard as ever,” Beekeepers report having to split their hives more often to make up for losses, entailing more work than in previous decades. And for commercial beekeepers maintaining thousands of bee hives, all of this additional work means more employees, more salaries, and more expenses.

The near-global spread of parasites like the varroa mite and the dozens of other diseases that beset commercial honey bees, which require a great deal more work and expense for both commercial and hobbyist beekeepers.

The demand for honey is going up. With proportionally more colonies being sent to pollinate almond orchards—as opposed to crops that are more valuable for honey production — a lower average volume of useable honey per colony can be expected. Supply of local honey is going down, prices for local honey rise, as long as beekeepers can keep up with costs and time.

## USDA making \$4M available to improve environment for honey bees

Farmers, ranchers and forest landowners in Wisconsin and five other Midwestern states who are working to improve food sources for honeybees on their lands are eligible for \$4 million in federal assistance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Tuesday. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is asking landowners in Wisconsin as well as Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota to make bee-friendly conservation improvements to their land that include planting cover crops, wildflowers or native grasses and improving management of grazing lands. <http://www.americaninfrastructuremag.com>

## Australian pollen signature in honey

Nice to see we’re catching up with rest of the world’s beekeepers. “Pollen analysis is done regularly overseas, but Australian data is not extensive,” Dr Hornitzky from the research team at the University of Melbourne, in collaboration with the Australian National University and industry partners. The goal is to identify the pollen content of honey made from different plant species and regions. This project will develop baseline data which could be used in future to certify honey as ‘Australian’ and hence provide security and value to the industry. It’s hoped the project will create a database reflective of Australian honey, with particular focus on uncommon pollen types unique to Australian vegetation, in contrast to those found on other continents. <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/news>

## Bee killers for sale



## Sponsor of the month of October 2015

- Caplilano
- Bronwyn Doong Silver Hills Farm
- Steve Cooper Camden Community Gardens
- Beekeeper Selection
- Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies

## Price List for Beekeeping Supply ex Macarthur Beekeepers

28.9.2015.

10 FRAME BOX	\$25.30
10 FRAME BASE 3/8 RISER	\$25.30
10 Frame EXCLUDER	\$16.50
10 FRAME MIGRAYORY LID	\$25.40
FRAMES FULL DEPTH	\$ 1.50
HIVE BASE 3/8 RISER 8 FRAME	\$25.30
HONEY GATES FOR 20/25 L BUCKET	\$27.50
M LOCKS	\$14.00
MIGRATORY LID 8 FRAME	\$23.10
EYELETS 500	\$12.70
NAILS CEMENT COATED	\$ 7.00
WIRE S/S 500g	\$26.40
HIVE TOOL	\$26.40
8 FRAME BOXES	\$24.60
QUEEN EXCLUDERS 8 FRAME	\$15.40
APITHOR BEATLE BAITE	\$ 7.00
WIRE CRIMPER	\$44.00
TACKS	\$ 5.00
STAINLESS STEEL SMOKER	\$55.00
20 LITER PAIL	\$14.65
FOUNDATION	\$ 1.65
LABELS \$0.25 OR 500 \$120.00	
GLASS JARS 375ml \$0.77each or Box of 72 =	\$52.00

Happy festive season to everyone from

the committee and me