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Amateur
Beekeepers
Association
NSW

THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS
APRIL • MAY 2021

9 GOLDEN
RULES FOR
**SELLING
YOUR
HONEY**

MAY 20
CELEBRATE
WORLD
BEE DAY

NEWS

Have your say on
NSW planning rules

Trading bees

Why to keep
records

ADVENTURES
WITH
AZ HIVES

Be careful!
Safety tips

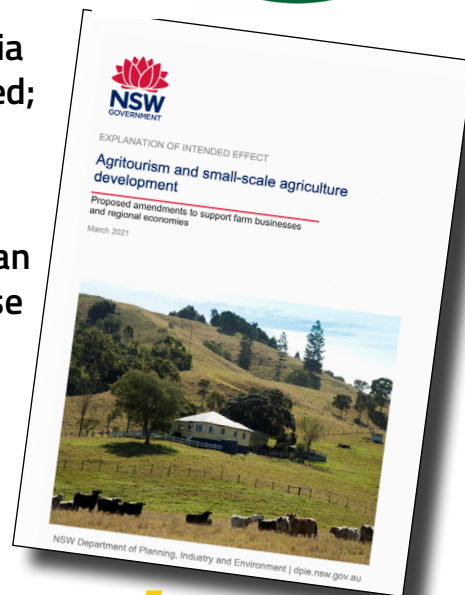




Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW



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The *Amateur Beekeeper* is the journal of the Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW Inc. It is distributed to members six times a year, in December, February, April, June, August and October.

The editor will consider adverts from businesses relevant to beekeepers to run free of charge where they contain a discount or special offer to ABA members. Please email editor@beekeepers.asn.au

Cover photo: Anthea Molino. A honey bee on a Lambs Ear plant, taken in Anthea's Quakers Hill garden. Anthea and her husband started beekeeping in May 2020 with a Flow hive. They are members of Parramatta and Hawkesbury clubs.

Do you have a photo you'd like to be considered for the cover of the next issue. Send it in to editor@beekeepers.asn.au

President's report

Hello and as we near the end of another beekeeping season, it's time to reflect on some extraordinary weather events.

Here on the fringes of the Blue Mountains, April has arrived warm and smiling, with little reference to the incredible flooding disaster which unfolded along a broad swathe of the east coast only a few weeks ago.

But take a short trip down the hill and you'll smell the mud before you see the still-swollen river, the damaged roads, the tide-line in the trees metres above your head as you cross the sodden floodplain.

Ironically many of our members and clubs who suffered losses in the floods are the same ones impacted by the drought and fires only a year ago. We know that many other of our members have been reaching out to offer practical help, encouragement and support.

As the floods recede and the mud is hosed away, I hope you are taking advantage of the warm weather to inspect your bees thoroughly for any sign of problems. It is important that all beekeepers know how to perform the simple but effective Sugar Shake Test so that we can continue to maintain Australia's position as the last continent without Varroa for as long as possible.

The ABA is proud to have been able to supply over 500 Sugar Shake Kits to affiliated clubs in March this year – see the article later in this issue for more information. (And I do encourage you to check with your local club secretary in case the club has any of its allocation still left to distribute.)

The ABA exists to support clubs and individual members in their beekeeping adventures. So we're always keen to hear suggestions for future projects that will enhance everyone's skills, enjoyment and experiences with bees.

Meanwhile, the ABA executive will continue to represent the recreational beekeeping community on a range of industry and government forums. With interest in bees and beekeeping continuing to gain momentum here and worldwide, these are exciting and challenging times indeed!

Sheila Stokes

president@beekeepers.asn.au

**SAVE THE DATE AGM/Conference
21 & 22 AUGUST, 2021 RICHMOND**

Easter show results 2021

WE CONGRATULATE all members who entered and supported the Sydney Royal Easter Show this year. Special applause is due to those who won or were placed in their classes.

For full details of winners, check out the results and judges' scorecards at rasnsw.com.au. As the show was cancelled in 2020, organisers were thrilled to see hundreds of entries coming in for 2021 from a wide range of experienced keepers, first-time entrants and even some first season beekeepers.

Andrew Koopman, a member of Central Coast Amateur Beekeepers, took out top honey honours for his light liquid honey and fine-grained creamed honey. Along the way Andrew collected Champion, Supreme Champion, Most Successful Exhibitor and Best Exhibit in Show ribbons and, as his winning liquid honey was extracted from a Flow hive, he also won a new hive from Flow.

Andrew, who lives in the Yarramalong Valley, near Wyong, has been interested in bees since 2015 but became serious about entering competitions only in 2019, when he won two classes in the Sydney Royal.

The secret to his success: bees foraging on nectar from grey ironbarks (*Eucalyptus paniculata*), collected last October. Andrew explains he's pretty fussy with the jars he uses – sorting through dozens to find flawless glass. And after a career working in fresh food handling, first as a butcher then with deli and seafood, he knows the importance of extreme care at every stage of processing.

Andrew admits to wearing a head torch to examine the honey before submitting his entries and hand delivers them to the show to avoid the honey getting shaken around in the mail.



Do these rule changes affect you?

NSW is proposing changes to how councils can regulate beekeeping

The NSW Department of Planning is looking at a set of amendments to existing planning controls that would assist agritourism ventures and low impact agricultural businesses.

Included in the document currently open for public consultation is a proposal to classify recreational beekeeping as an 'exempt development.'

What does this mean?

As a recreational beekeeper, if you tick all the boxes in the proposed new regulations, you do not need to ask your local council for permission to keep bees on your property. Nor can the council say 'No' to your bees on zoning or planning grounds.

Why is this change being proposed? Currently councils across the state interpret rules around beekeeping in different ways, with most taking a supportive or encouraging view, but some have been quite opposed to anyone keeping bees in urban or residential areas. The aim is to clarify the situation across the state and give beekeepers greater certainty.

Is this necessary?

The proposal is to introduce new powers for councils to prevent recreational beekeeping when it doesn't comply with a defined set of rules.

THE ABA welcomes efforts to clarify the rules around recreational beekeeping to give beekeepers in all areas of NSW greater certainty.

However the ABA is concerned that the current proposals do not address problems encountered by members in some parts of the state: councils classifying anyone who sells even minimal amounts of honey as a commercial operator, and/or misinterpreting Local Environment Plans (LEPs) to incorrectly tell hobbyists that they cannot keep bees in particular zones.

(Recreational activities such as beekeeping are not addressed in LEPs: references to "beekeeping" in LEPs refer specifically to the keeping and breeding of bees for commercial purposes.)

ABA questions the need to introduce new rules, and believes a more sensible approach is to make it easier for councils to implement existing legislation in a fair and consistent manner.

The current set of guidelines as set out by the NSW DPI's Beekeeping Code of Practice adequately covers responsible management and placement of bee hives, and allows for individual circumstances. The ABA believes this is preferable to prescriptive development standards. Requiring hobby beekeepers to submit a Development Application if they fall outside the narrow definitions is not feasible.

Excerpts from paper

"Recreational beekeeping has grown in popularity in recent years . . . It can be an interesting and rewarding hobby with minor impacts if managed appropriately. While commercial beekeeping is defined as a form of extensive agriculture in the Standard Instrument LEP, recreational beekeeping is not defined. This has led to some confusion regarding whether development approval is needed for the activity.

. . . The proposed amendments will clarify that recreational beekeeping is exempt development and does not need planning approval if it complies with certain standards. These standards are in line with the NSW Beekeeping Code of Practice and are designed to avoid inappropriate development and minimise impacts related to such development. . . . Where the development standards cannot be met a development application would be required.

The development:

- Must not be used for a commercial purpose.
- Must not consist of more than: 2 hives for lots up to 300m²; 4 hives for lots 300m² to 1000m²; 8 hives for lots above 1000m²; no limit for lots in a rural zone.
- Must not contain any hive within 1m of any lot boundary, or within 3m of any boundary adjoining a public reserve, childcare centre, health services facility, educational establishment or community facility.
- Must be located in a rural, residential, or environmental zone.
- If it is in a residential zone, be located in the rear yard.
- If it is located on bush fire prone land, not be within 5m of a dwelling.

NOTE: Beekeepers must also comply with the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 2015, Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice and Beekeeping Code of Practice for NSW."

Want to read more? And to make a submission before April 19

The Explanation of Intended Effect document, is on the NSW planning portal at

<https://tinyurl.com/463v3u36>

TECHNIQUES

Sugar Shake Time

Have you completed your mite check yet?

EACH YEAR the ABA partners with the NSW DPI to promote Sugar Shake Month in April. Although beekeepers can do mite checks at any time of the year, your last full brood inspection before winter is a perfect opportunity to make sure no parasites are present.

The chief critter to be looking for is Varroa – the parasite that devastates colonies in every other major beekeeping country around the world. And while nobody wants to discover it here, we all need to be on full alert. And to act quickly if we discover anything suspicious. The key to stopping its spread will be early intervention. And that's why regular checks are vital. (Not to mention they are also mandatory under the Beekeeping Code of Practice that is a condition of being allowed to keep bees in Australia.)

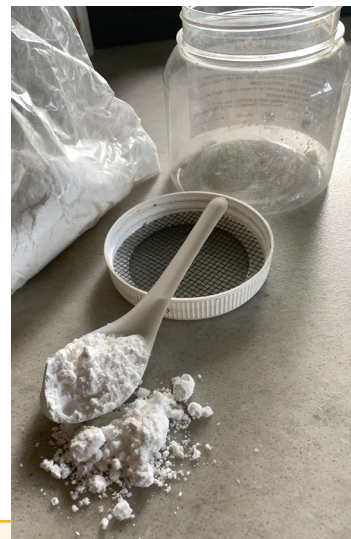
The ABA has compiled a range of information on Sugar Shake testing at beekeepers.asn.au/sugarshake. This page also has links to fact sheets, videos and slideshows. Or simply scan the QR shown above to go direct to a video.

This Sugar Shake Kit proudly supplied by



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW

Please scan the QR code
for instructions on use.



NEED A SUGAR SHAKE KIT? The ABA recently purchased and distributed more than 500 kits to clubs. Each club opting into the scheme received 12 or 24 kits to give away to members. Ask your club for details.

Missed out? You can buy kits from the ABA store for \$15 each plus postage. These contain a mesh lidded jar, sugar mix, spoon, and printed instructions. The label displays a QR code to scan and can watch a video demonstration.

TIPS

How to shake right

▪ COLLECT THE 300 SAMPLE BEES FROM BROOD FRAMES

In a colony it's the nurse bees that are the most likely to be infested with Varroa since the parasites breed inside sealed brood cells.

Don't worry if, when you shake the bees off the brood frames, some fly off. The escapees are more likely to be field bees and the ones left will be a concentrated collection of young bees – the ones you want!

▪ ROLL YOUR BEES FOR TWO MINUTES

You're aiming to completely coat the bees in icing sugar. Count slowly up to 120 as you rotate the jar. Yes, that's quite a long time.

▪ REPEAT

After the first two minutes, stand the jar down while you prepare the container you are going to tip the sugar into. Then pick up the jar and roll the bees for another 120 seconds. This ensures the sugar gets under the bees' wings and gives the bees a chance to groom. You want the Varroa mites, which typically attach themselves to the underside of the bees and between the segments, to detach.

▪ TIP THE LOOSE MATERIAL INTO A WHITE CONTAINER

Or onto a plain white sheet of paper. If you use newspaper or a dark bucket you'll be struggling to see what you've collected.



9 Things Every Beekeeper Should Know About Selling Honey

COMPLY WITH FOOD HANDLING REGULATIONS

Goes without saying? Check with your local council for up-to-date details of requirements for bottling and selling as a home based business.

IF YOU SELL MORE THAN 1500 KILOS A YEAR, PAY THE HONEY LEVY

You benefit from lots of work being done to protect Australia from pest incursions and to strengthen our local apiculture industry, so make sure you pay the national honey levy of 4.6 cents a kilo. For more information check out the [December 2021 issue of this journal](#).

LABEL IT RIGHT

Check you have included all necessary information, such as contents, contacts, batch, weight, nutrition panel and country of origin symbols. The [August 2019 issue](#) has a rundown.

HEALTH CLAIMS? NOT UNLESS YOU CAN PROVE THEM

By all means make your honey sound attractive to potential buyers, but never stretch the truth. Health claims made for marketing purposes are strictly regulated and fines can be heavy. Stick to what's been scientifically proven.

CUSTOMERS VALUE BEAUTIFUL PACKAGING AND PRESENTATION

Plastic pails may be cheap and cheerful -- and that may suit your pitch. But a stylish glass jar and professional looking label will increase the appeal of your harvest and boost the amount you can charge.

Never undervalue honey: it is a premium natural product and consumers will respond if you present it that way..

SET A GOOD PRICE If you sell direct to the consumer, you can expect to get around \$20 a kilo (sometimes more). If you are selling bulk or to a retailer, you trade convenience for price and so expect a lot less.

CHECK THE LIDS ARE SECURE

Goes without saying? Perhaps.

Until that one time that you don't check!



NEVER!

It's NOT okay to use a hodge podge of old jars with their original lids. This contravenes food safety regulations and looks unprofessional. Properly sterilised glass jars with new lids can be used.

ALWAYS!

Prepare your bottling area so it is scrupulously clean and tidy. Once filled, carefully wipe the outside of each jar to remove all traces of honey and fingerprints. A sticky jar is never appealing – and the last thing you want if you are selling outdoors is for some opportunistic bees to pick up that aroma. Bees can quickly become very annoying for everyone at the market – a good reason to think carefully before allowing honey tasting when hives are nearby.

SAFETY

Beekeeping without accidents

No one likes to imagine nasty things happening, but here are a few pointers every club and beekeeper should consider to avoid trouble

Test and Tag: Clubs accumulate a range of appliances and extension cords. Have your appliances been tested and tagged by a licensed electrician? Donated items and those purchased new or secondhand may all need to be verified. Have a plan to check regularly.



First Aid: Health and safety should be considered at any gathering, and not only when inspecting an apiary and opening hives.



Has the club allocated a first aid person at each meeting? Is first aid equipment available and easy to access? (Make sure it isn't locked up or hidden away.)

Has someone checked the contents of the first aid kit and replaced anything damaged or missing? How long has it been since the EpiPen was replaced? For any get-together, identify one or more first aid persons, and locate the address and phone number of your nearest medical service.

At remote gatherings, ensure someone has a charged mobile with network coverage and knows the location so, should they need to, they can give emergency services accurate directions.

Think through how you would handle, for instance, severe allergies, burns, sprains or broken limbs, a heart attack, snake or spider bites, cuts.

Does your location have unique challenges? What can you do to mitigate risks?

Food Safe: If food is being prepared or served, check there are blue sticking plasters, gloves and sanitiser available as per food handling requirements.



Are knives, BBQ tools or other items to be used? Have you planned safe handling, transport and storage? Give some simple instructions to volunteers about suitable attire (hair coverings, footwear, jewellery).

Consider food allergies. Follow the safe food handling guidelines applicable to your activities. And consider if all equipment is stable, in good working order and has appropriate safety features.

Extreme Weather events: Who is responsible for looking after the apiary in the event of extreme weather? Recent high water lines can cause stands to sink; hives can be knocked over or topple, Water can enter through vent holes. Fires, winds and other natural events wreak havoc on apiary sites.

If someone is checking club apiaries before or after an extreme weather event, consider their safety. Know who is where, when, and how they will travel. Ensure communication devices are available and are charged. Stay in contact.



Pest and Disease: Does the club have a strategy for irradiation of materials? and for properly destroying damaged or infected components? Check and follow state rules for safe disposal.

Clubs and members must keep biosecurity records when bees are moved, sold, traded or donated. See article elsewhere in this issue for further details.

Did this piece prompt you to think about your risk management plan? Every situation is different so you and your club should carefully assess the range of risks in your specific circumstances.

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BIOSECURITY RULES

Transfer of honey bee ownership

Every time you buy, swap, sell or give away bees, keep accurate records

HOW OFTEN have you acquired some bees and been asked to supply your name, address and beekeeper registration number? If you answered, "Always" you'd probably be in a minority. Although it's long been the law in NSW for anyone dealing in honey bees to record these details, compliance has been patchy.

Recently the NSW DPI updated the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 to make it easier for bee breeders, retailers and keepers to do the responsible thing. The

old-style printed "Notice of Disposal" forms have been phased out, and now the 'seller' simply needs to retain accurate records. .

These rules apply regardless of whether or not any money is exchanged. And they cover the disposal (including by sale) of any queen honey bees and/or colony of honey bees. This means records are needed for transferring the ownership of packages, nucs, splits and swarms, as well as

single queens and fully established hives.

Records must be kept for five years.

The next edition of the ABA Beekeeper's Log Book will include pages where you can record all purchases, sales or trades of bees.

LIVE AND KEEP BEES OUTSIDE NSW?

THE LEGISLATION DISCUSSED HERE APPLIES TO NEW SOUTH WALES.

CHECK THE RULES IN YOUR STATE.

KEEPING DETAILED RECORDS IS ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA

If Australians learned one thing from the COVID pandemic, it's that **contact tracing can help stop disease in its tracks**

TRADING BEES

NSW requires you to record the name, postal address and beekeeper registration number (hive brand number) of anyone to whom you sell or give any honey bees – and to keep these written or electronic records for five years. (Fines can apply if you don't.)

You should refuse to deal with anyone who will not provide their details.

RECEIVING BEES

You must give your name, postal address and beekeeper registration number to the person who sells or gives you honey bees.

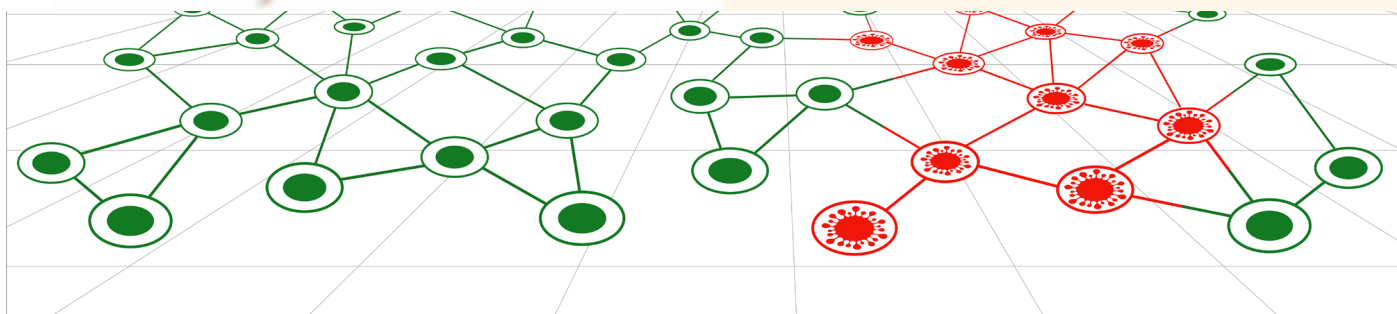
It is their legal responsibility to record these details..

As a responsible beekeeper, it is also a good idea to keep your own records of where you source any bees introduced into your apiary. Note the date and name of supplier plus any details of how or where they were introduced.

Not asked for your details?

Remind the trader to record your name, address and registration number, and explain that you support contact tracing as a method of containing diseases and problems.

And remember: as a buyer, you have the option to walk away if you the person who is offering you bees is not operating responsibly.



CLUB NEWS

Hive records: going electronic?

DREW MAYNALD from Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers has been experimenting with Excel spreadsheets (and now also a Google Sheets version) that record the dates and conditions of his multiple hives.

Drew says he is happy to share his templates with other keepers keen to store the results of their inspections in electronic form. And lately he has been further refining his systems to create a Google Form that he completes for each hive and then the results for all inspections are automatically stored on a central record.

Contact Drew at gcrb.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au if you want details.

Our two newest affiliated clubs

IN LATE March the ABA welcomed two newly formed clubs, ALBURY Beekeepers and CUMBERLAND Beekeepers to our network.

Members of the Cumberland group were busy at the Sydney Royal Easter Show promoting bees and beekeeping at a stall with the NSW Apiarists' Association. This year Honeyland was absent from the show lineup, although visitors were able to study entries to the National Honey Show and admire winners in classes from liquid honey, to beeswax, candles, mead and honeycomb.



Acacia flowering chart online

PRESIDENT of the Southern Tablelands branch of the Australian Native Plant Society Peter Wauchope has put together a chart of the flowering times of acacias that grow in the southern regions.

Says Jane Suttle, of Goulburn Beekeepers, "It is a huge amount of research work in a simple chart."

Find it at beekeepers.asn.au/goulburn

JARGON EXPLAINED

Registration number / hive brand

This is the short identification code that you are required to display on the outside of each honey bee hive.

Check your DPI registration number on the DPI's Beekeeper Portal at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/beekeeper-registration

If you have provided your DPI registration number to the ABA, you will find it printed on the rear of your ABA membership card as a handy reference.

It is not mandatory to provide the ABA with your DPI registration number, but if you'd like to add it to your member record you can do so at beekeepers.asn.au/sign-in.

ABA MEMBERSHIP Q&A

"WILL YOU TELL ME WHEN MY RENEWAL IS DUE?"

Yes, of course, We email all current members with an offer to renew online for the following 12 months, These emails will be sent out in June.

"HOW DO I CHECK I HAVE GIVEN YOU MY CORRECT DETAILS?"

We rely on members keeping their own membership details up to date at beekeepers.asn.au/sign-in.

With over 4500 members now, we have automated systems to send email and post to whichever address is recorded in the membership database. Please don't email asking us to update your records.

"CAN I MOVE TO A DIFFERENT ABA CLUB?" Of course. First please check that the club you wish to move to is affiliated with the ABA. All ABA clubs are listed at beekeepers.asn.au/find-a-club

Then email membership@beekeepers.asn.au to let us know which club you wish to move to. If you wish to move straightaway you will need to pay the new club's membership fee to cover the remainder of the current membership year. However if you are happy to start with the new club in July 2021 we will simply send you joining instructions for the new club. when renewal notices are sent in June.

DIARY DATE

Get ready for May 20!

World Bee Day (20 May) was declared by the United Nations in 2017. It has been celebrated annually since May 2018, making this year the fourth celebration of World Bee Day.

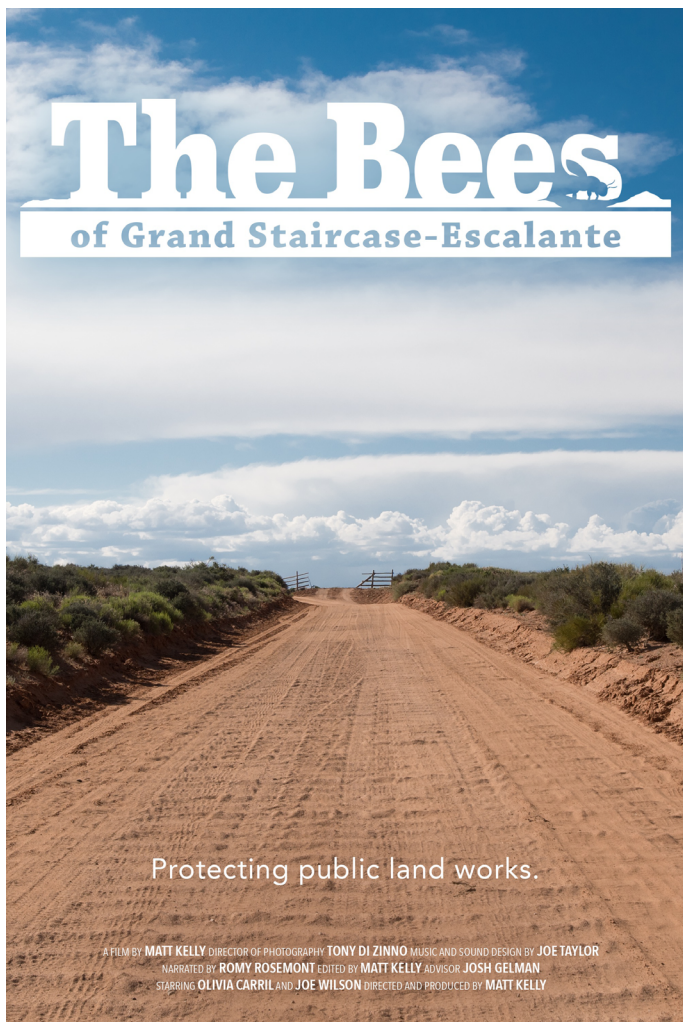
Growing quickly, the main purpose of World Bee Day is to spread awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators for our survival. World Bee Day is an excellent opportunity to put bees centre stage for a day and encourage everyone to create more bee-friendly landscapes.



How do I get involved?

Check out worldbeeday.org.au The website lists pre-arranged events and has lots of suggestions for organising your own event. You can register your local World Bee Day events for free.

Link in with some of the feature events already available. Such as:



- National screening of the film *The Bees of Grand Staircase-Escalante*. View it at home, book a virtual

table, watch with family and friends. The virtual doors open an hour before the film. Grab a meal and a drink, chat with people on your virtual table, and ask questions of speakers live in real time after the film.

We need bees.

- FOOD SECURITY
- BIODIVERSITY
- ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

WorldBeeDay.org.au

- Ask your local cinema if you can

host a local screening of the film *The Pollinators*. View the trailer au.demand.film/the-pollinators/

- Join the online [Global Waggle Dance Challenge](#). Upload your video before 15 May and you could be featured in the 2021 Waggle Dance Compilation that will be released on World Bee Day.
- Participate in a We Need Bees Farmers Market.
- Call your local Farmers Market manager and offer to support their event. (If they don't know about the We Need Bees Toolkit, tell them they can download it from farmersmarkets.org.au) Encourage your bee club to get involved.

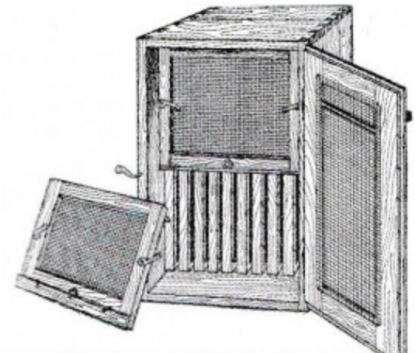
Keep checking the World Bee Day website. Book into World Bee Day events that interest you. Have fun!





IN SOLVENIA, BRIGHTLY COLOURED AZ HIVES HOUSED IN A MOBILE APIARY. THE BEEKEEPER ACCESSES THE BEES BY OPENING A DOOR AT THE BACK OF EACH HIVE AND SLIDES FRAMES OUT HORIZONTALLY.

BELOW: DRAWING OF DESIGN FROM 1910.



BEEKEEPING TECHNIQUES

Adventures with Slovenian AZ hives

Gold Coast beekeeper Windy Hill decided to trial this European system

The Slovenian AZ hive, relatively unknown to Australian beekeepers, is named after its designer Anton Žnideršič. Unlike the familiar Langstroth hive, the AZ hive is usually housed in a bee house with only the front of the hive exposed.

AZ hives can be closely packed, do not involve lifting of heavy supers, and the beekeeper can work inside the bee house while protected from the elements. You simply open the back door of each hive to inspect, allowing you to check your bees frequently and quickly.

To quote from the book *AZ Beekeeping with the Slovenian hive* by Janko Božič, "To begin using a AZ hive you must get used to the idea of beekeeping inside and moving frames rather than the whole hive chambers." Anyone with a bad back or shoulders may find the AZ hive easier to use than the standard Langstroth hive.

The hive is constructed as a chest divided into two or three sections – depending on whether you want 2 x 10, or 3 x 10 frames – stacked on top of each other. The front requires an inner board which assists with temperature control. The hive has entrances at each level: the main one at the bottom and additional ones for each section. This allows the field bees direct access to the honey super when required.

FRONT OF AZ HIVE, SHOWING TWO ENTRANCES



The rear of the hive is where you will do most of your work. While looking solid, the door actually has two ventilation flaps. This allows air flow to the back-side of the hive on warm days with a hive full of bees. Slovenian beekeepers produce honey with at least 2% lower water content than in Langstroth hives.

The inner workings of the hive consist of the brood area at the bottom and the honey super at the top, just like a Langstroth setup. The frames slide out (think of the action of taking a book out of a bookcase) and are held in place by steel V-shaped nails at both the front of the hive and on the inner covers. Each section has its own removable inner window so the beekeeper can see into that part of the hive without allowing bees to escape. The window, once removed, allows quick and easy access to the frames.

The frames are supported on their lower edges by three steel bars which run horizontally across the hive from side to side in each section. The top and bottom bar of each frame is concave so the minimum amount of wood sits on the steel bars – reducing the amount of propolis.

BACK OF HIVE WITH VENTILATION FLAPS CLOSED AND OPEN





OPEN HIVE SHOWING BROOD AND HONEY SUPER AREAS

Traditionally AZ hive frames are deeper but narrower than frames for a Langstroth hive. This will cause an issue with pre-formed foundation as there will be a gap at the bottom of each frame but the sides will need to be trimmed. AZ frames are wired vertically.

Here are links to interesting videos on AZ hives:
[youtube.com/watch?v=8MitGadOqU4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MitGadOqU4)

What is an AZ hive

[bing.com/videos/search?q=az+hives&&view=-detail&mid=6EAE73E8E68A862E3A3A6E-AE73E8E68A862E3A3A&&FORM=VRD GAR](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=az+hives&&view=-detail&mid=6EAE73E8E68A862E3A3A6E-AE73E8E68A862E3A3A&&FORM=VRD GAR)

Installing a package in an AZ hive

[youtube.com/watch?v=57HqC1mwjl4&t&fbclid=I-wAR175PjKpISX_QzLi99vNTrEUBtleLIEzcNFvtl_pAt_fvu5jtgh0Xf61Kg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57HqC1mwjl4&t&fbclid=I-wAR175PjKpISX_QzLi99vNTrEUBtleLIEzcNFvtl_pAt_fvu5jtgh0Xf61Kg)

I managed to build my bee house out of an old garden shed, and installed the first hive as shown in the photos. Over time I intend to install between four and six hives into the house. To assist with the installation of further hives I have already pre-cut the section into which I will place the new hives. To install future hives, I simply remove a couple of screws and pull the pre-cut section out and pop the new hive in.

Beekeeper Jo Read was kind enough to take on the task of starting a nuc for me in a Slovenian Brood box. The transfer into the full-size hive went very smoothly and without smoke which was a pleasant surprise.

For three months I had to feed the girls. I had two setbacks with the internal feeder: first a leak that was difficult to stop and then an ant problem. As a fix I built an external feeder that I mounted on the shed. It took the girls a little while to get used to this and it wasn't until I added the landing pad that they took to it ferociously. The girls then progressed well.

It's been a steep learning curve on how to manage a Slovenian hive, and while I am sure I will continue to learn, I am finding the experience both interesting and rewarding. While I do not pull the frames every few days, I do open the back of the hive just to listen and to learn what is normal. Having the internal door with wire mesh basically turns the hive into an observation hive.



ABOVE: WINDY'S BEE HOUSE WITH THE FIRST HIVE INSTALLED, CONSTRUCTED FROM AN OLD GARDEN SHED

RIGHT: INSIDE OF THE BEE-HOUSE SHOWING THE BACK OF THE HIVES.

TOP RIGHT: EXTERNAL FEEDER WITH LANDING BOARD

BOTTOM RIGHT: HIVE BEING ASSEMBLED



If anyone has any questions about the construction of these hives, or Slovenian hives in general, please do not hesitate to contact Windy Hill on windy738@hotmail.com or 0414 617 716

EDUCATION

Learn from home

WATCH Tom Seeley, author of "Honeybee Democracy," and professor of neurobiology and behaviour, review the history of behavioural studies of foraging honeybees and explain the process by which swarming honey bees choose a new home. [An hour-long lecture](#) given at Cornell University from this world leader in honey bee research. A classic.



LEARN from a range of experts who have given talks to the [UK National Honey Show](#). Presentations from seven annual conferences are now available online for free. Topics range from the basic to the most specialised. Try [How Bees Fly](#) from Simon Rees, [All About Drones](#) by Kim Flottum, or [Biology of the Colony](#) by Juliana Rangel for starters.

LISTEN to podcasts about bees and beekeeping when and wherever you like. [Two Bees in a Podcast](#) is a weekly 40 to 60 minute chat about current issues and research findings. From the Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab at the University of Florida with Jamie Ellis and others. Scroll through more than 50 past episodes and subscribe to the weekly releases. It's interesting, accurate and entertaining.

[2 Million Blossoms](#) is a beautifully designed quarterly magazine dedicated to protecting the world's pollinators. \$20 a year for a digital subscription or sign up for the newsletter for free news about bees, bugs and assorted pollination projects.

DISCOVER with Illawarra Beekeepers. The club continues to upload useful and instructional videos on practical aspects of beekeeping, at [illawarrabeekeepers.org.au](#). The latest video looks at inspecting a hive for AFB.

INVITATIONS

Log book feedback



We'd like to hear your suggestions for our next edition *ABA Beekeeper's Log Book*. *What do you find most useful? Anything missing? Improvements we could make to the current format? Bear in mind that the book needs to be useful for beekeepers with a range of experience, and different types and numbers of hives.*

The next edition of the log book will be released in June, to coincide with the 2021-2022 membership year. That means we need your comments and suggestions now. Drop us a note on feedback@beekeepers.asn.au

SHOW US YOUR BEES!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR PHOTOS FEATURED IN THIS JOURNAL, ON OUR WEBSITE OR PERHAPS ON THE COVER OF THE NEXT LOG BOOK?

SEND YOUR PHOTOS and a description of when and how they were taken, to editor@beekeepers.asn.au

YOUR ABA

The Amateur Beekeepers Association represents recreational beekeepers in industry forums, and provides a range of services to affiliated beekeeping clubs and members.

The association has grown rapidly in recent years and continues to be run entirely by an eager team of volunteers. We are currently looking for members with business or organising skills who are keen to lend a hand. Contact us if you think you could help.

ABA EXECUTIVE

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