



FITZROY REGIONAL BEEKEEPERS ASSOC. INC



Newsletter

August – September 2021

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Website:

<https://fitzroyregionalbeekeepers.weebly.com/>



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/fitzroyregionalbeekeepers>

Fitzroy Regional Beekeepers Association. inc

@fitzroyregionalbeekeepers · Community

Beekeeping Calendar:

August:

This month there is a focus on swarm control and checking how the bees are going as we come into swarm season. Also check to see if the bees are bringing enough pollen into the hive and how your honey stores are going.

Club News and Contact Details:

Next Meeting Date: Sunday 8 August at Danny Bates Shed (5 Featherstone Street, Parkhurst), 1 pm, bring your own chair. Help raise funds for the club with a sausage sizzle after the meeting. Prices: sausage \$2.00 (bread is free!), soft drink \$2.00.

Agenda: Presentation on swarm control and ABC Landline program about queen bee insemination. Everyone welcome!

President: Les Rigby (0427 278 222)

Secretary/Treasurer: Warren Hinton (0477 124 498)

Committee Member: Terrina Bailey (0407 374735)



Industry Updates



Australian Honey Bee INDUSTRY COUNCIL

AHB's July 2021 newsletter [here](#).

B-QUAL's June 2021 newsletter [here](#).

AHBIC Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023 – A Plan for a “New”
AHBIC – view [here](#).

Current COVID-19 Information – 2021. Current details
regarding entry conditions into different states can be
found [here](#) and Queensland border restrictions, including
declared hotspots, can be reviewed [here](#).



CRC HBP

HONEY BEE PRODUCTS

[Research paper](#) – *Potential distribution of Leptospermum
species (Myrtaceae) in Australia for bioactive honey
production purposes*, Santos et al., 28 June 2021, New
Zealand Journal of Crop and Horticultural Science.

[Research paper](#) – *Satellite prediction of forest flowering
phenology*, Dixon et al., 15 March 2021, Remote Sensing
of the Environment.

Podcast – Sticky Science, a podcast series exploring the
science of the honey bee industry. [Episode 1](#) – Bee Firm
NRG talks about the natural honey drink from Western
Australia, [Episode 2](#) – Vidushi Patel, a student of
agriculture and environment at the University of Western
Australia, talks about the impact of climate change on the
Western Australia bee industry, [Episode 3](#) – Kathryn
Green chats about testing the antimicrobial properties of
Western Australian honeys, [Episode 4](#) – groundbreaking
research into fingerprinting honeys to authenticate their
floral sources.



Honey Bee Biosecurity

Beekeepers have legal responsibilities and if you are a new
beekeeper, you must [register as a biosecurity entity with
Biosecurity Queensland](#). Once registered, you will receive
a unique HIN (hive identification number) to brand your
hives.

Rebecca Laws



Bee Biosecurity Officer

Queensland Department of Agriculture and
Fisheries

Dr Rebecca Laws holds a Bachelor of Science in
biology, an honours degree and PhD in zoology,
and a Graduate Certificate in higher education.

Since 2015, Rebecca has worked on several
plant biosecurity projects in Biosecurity
Queensland, within the Department of

Agriculture and Fisheries.

Rebecca has produced a great range of informative bee
biosecurity videos. Click [here](#) to access her YouTube
videos.

Rebecca's contact details:

Contact

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Rebecca.Laws@daf.qld.gov.au

Queensland Beekeepers Association

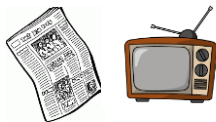


Essential and important documents: [Free download](#) of Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers, Biosecurity Code of Practice, Notifiable Pests and Diseases in Qld with contact details for reporting and information on how to submit an AFB brood sample with relevant form.

Biosecurity Training Course: Plant Health Australia (PHA) provides an [e-learning course](#) with free access for all beekeepers in Australia. The course is designed for people with a basic understanding of beekeeping and would like to know more about protecting bees from pests and diseases. A [Fact Sheet](#) provides details on enrolling in the course. There are six modules to complete with a certificate issued on successful completion.

[Biosecurity for Beekeepers](#) – provides advice on keeping honey bees healthy using industry best practice. This course supports the [Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice](#) and is one way to meet the training requirement of the Code. (Please note: this course is on a different site to the other BOLT courses.)

This course is free for all beekeepers based in Australia (\$40 for international enrolments). Once you are [on the login page for the Biosecurity for Beekeepers course](#), there are a few simple steps to enrol, and then you will be able to access and complete the course. If you need more help, a step by step guide to get started is available in the [Biosecurity for Beekeepers fact sheet](#).



Honey Bee News Articles / Television Programs

[Caffeine boosts bees' focus and helps them learn](#), Scientific American, 28 July 2021

[Dutch honey bees resistant to varroa mite imported to Australia to help guard against the pest](#), ABC News, 16 July 2021

[WA honey industry calls for end to native forest logging](#), ABC News, 9 July 2021

[Sweet justice beekeeping beckons for keen parolees from Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre](#), ABC News, 17 April 2021.

[New artificial intelligence technology used to protect bees from Varroa Destructor mite](#), ABC News, 29 March 2021.

[Australia's Food Bowl – Almonds and Bees](#), SBS ON DEMAND, Season 1, Episode 8, 15 July 2021.

[Landline – Bringing in the Bees](#), ABC IVIEW, 18 July 2021.



National and International Beekeeping Events

6-14 September 2021, Apimondia the world beekeeping Congress, Montreal, Quebec, Canada has been rescheduled to 20-27 August 2022 in [Ufa, Russia](#), See [Newsletter 14](#).

6-14 November 2021, [Australian Pollinator Week](#), get involved in community events such as the global waggle dance challenge! See the newsletter for our club event.

21-23 October 2021, [The 90th National Honey Show](#), Surrey, UK, free lecture video series on varroa, genetics, queen quality and many other topics.

21-22 January 2022, [International Conference on Apiculture and Honey Bee Biology](#), Amsterdam, Netherlands.





Beginning Beekeepers Online Course

Ecrotek was formed in 2015 from a merger between the two leading suppliers in the New Zealand Beekeeping Industry and now operate an office and warehouse in New South Wales. Ecrotek are offering a free, on-line beekeeping course for beginning beekeepers with content emailed to participants each week. Check their learning [videos](#) page.



Beekeeping Online Course

The University of Sydney is offering a beekeeping course covering the history of beekeeping, honey flora, swarming, bee hive management, splitting a hive, bee health, flow hive and top-bar hives. It is suitable for anyone interested in learning about the fundamentals of various methods of beekeeping. Delivery is both face-to-face and online via Zoom. There is a cost to participate in the course. Course dates:

Face-to face – Saturday 21 August 2021

Online via Zoom – Saturday 6 November and Sunday 7 November 2021

Click [here](#) for more information.



Angelina Jolie poses for [National Geographic](#) covered in live bees to highlight bee conservation and to support female beekeepers.

Club Events - Wild Pollinator Count

Australia’s wild pollinators are often overlooked however native insects make an important contribution to pollination in crops and gardens. Australia has approximately 2 000 native bee species, all of which are important pollinators. The Wild Pollinator Count is an opportunity to contribute to wild pollinator insect conservation in Australia. We will be holding a wild pollinator event in conjunction with the annual spring Wild Pollinator Count in November. **Watch this space!**

Join in the Wild Pollinator Count

Relatively little is known about the thousands of native pollinator species in Australia - That's right, there are more than honey bees to consider!

You can participate in this citizen science project by doing your own count or by coming along to learn more and count with us.

HOW? Take 10 minutes to watch your choice of flowering plant and let us know which potential pollinators you see. Find out more at: wildpollinatorcount.com

- You don't need to be an insect expert.
- You don't need fancy gear.
- You may be surprised by what you see!

COME ALONG TO OUR WILD POLLINATOR COUNT EVENT...

Bee Health - American foulbrood

American foulbrood (AFB) is a fatal disease of honey bees caused by the spore forming bacterium *Paenibacillus larvae*. The spores can remain viable for over 50 years and can resist freezing and high temperatures.

Strong and weak colonies are susceptible to AFB and can be infected at any time throughout the year. If young larvae are fed AFB spores by nurse bees, the larvae will die after capping. The bacterium multiplies rapidly, producing billions of spores. AFB is a reportable disease in every state and territory of Australia.

Click [here](#) for more information about AFB including the disease cycle, symptoms, detection, management, fact sheets and videos showing how to test for AFB, destroying bee colonies and irradiating hives (Source: Bee Aware).

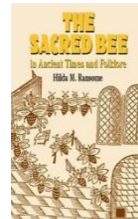


Bee Books

Extracts from “The Sacred Bee in Ancient times and Folklore,” by Hilda M. Ransome.

[The Dover edition, first published in 2004, is an unabridged republication of the work originally published in 1937 by George Allen & Unwin, London.]

ANCIENT EGYPT



Ancient Egyptians bake honey cakes
(Source: Planet Bee)



Sunken and perforated cappings are clear indicators of an AFB infected hive. Doug Somerville, NSW DPI



American foulbrood with perforated cappings. Rob Snyder, www.beeinformed.org

Beekeeping must have been practiced on a large scale in ancient Egypt, for honey was required by all classes. It was used in every household as a sweetening material: there is a marriage contract in existence which states: “I take thee to wife . . . and promise to deliver to thee yearly twelve jars of honey.” (p. 28)

Wax was sometimes used in mummification, and the coffins in which the embalmed bodies were placed for transport were made airtight by means of beeswax. (p. 29)

Honey was so much valued that it was extracted in tribute. Many jars of honey were paid annually by the chief of the Retenu (a people in Syria) to the great conqueror Thothmes III. It is mentioned as one of the spoils on the Carnarvon tablet, which records the defeat of the Hyksos by Kamose, and later it was one of the rations allowed to the king’s messengers and standard-bearers. (p. 30)

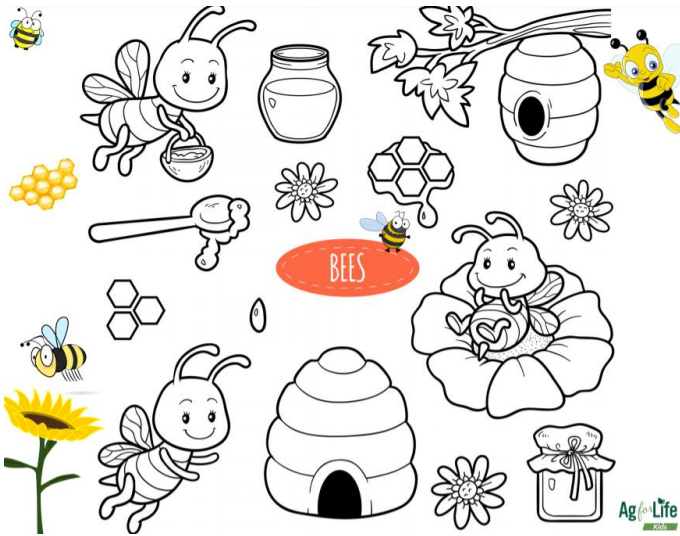
In Egypt, we find myths about the origin of bees and honey, the bee used as a symbol to express royalty, beekeeping practiced many thousands of years ago, and honey and wax used by all classes. The bee and her products thus played no mean part in the life of those wonderful people, the ancient Egyptians. (p. 33)

Interested in finding out more about beekeeping in Ancient Egypt? [Listen](#) to Professor Gene Kritsky of Mount St Joseph’s University discuss honey, hives, and hieroglyphs with Living on Earth’s resident beekeeper Helen Palmer.

(Source: Bee Aware)



Bee Fun for the Kids



Colouring fun

(Source: Agriculture for Life)



Make a bee bookmark, click [here](#) for instructions.



Save the Bees have a bee hive cake recipe (and instructional video), check it out [here](#).

Bee Quiz – test your knowledge

1. How many different species of bees are there?

- a) 2 000
- b) 20 000
- c) 200 000

2. Of these species, where do most bees' nest?

- a) in the ground
- b) inside flowers
- c) in honeycombs

3. How many species of honey bees are there?

- a) 7
- b) 700
- c) 7 000

4. What colour can bees NOT see?

- a) blue
- b) red
- c) green



5. What is the most common species of honey bee?

- a) the cowboy honey bee
- b) the western honey bee
- c) the pollen honey bee



Answers: 1 – b, 2 – a, 3 – a, 4 – b, 5 – b

(Source: Empress of Dirt)

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