

JUNNE 2026



NEWSLETTER



World Bee Day, 2026 and what a day! This is the third year we have celebrated this event and year, we partnered with the Material Institute and Bridgewater Local Bee Network to create more connections, build more capacity and try our hands at more activities. This event included a small curated market and a morning tea to raise funds for the When Bee Foundation - entry was by gold coin donation and we raised \$160.00 Wax rendering, mead making, insulating hives, checking bees and for the first time since 2023, a showing of the 'Hive Sisters' a documentary of the World Records we set all the way back in 2023. As always, this experience was a meeting of bee minded people keen to learn new skills, for some it was the first time opening a hive. . Thank you to Lou Sales and the Material Institute for being such fantastic partners

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BEE QUEENS 2026-27

Expressions of Interest for the next program are now open. We have many interested women keen to sign up and if you know someone who wants to become a beekeeper, please encourage them to reach out and connect. We will be starting this program at the end of July, and workshop one will include a showing of the recent National Geographic film 'Secrets of the Bees.' We have another big year of learning planned, and remember if you have signed up to a past program, you are welcome back to any or all of the forward workshops we have planned. You are a valued part of our connected, and growing, community.



VARROA UPDATE

Varroa mite continues its hitchhiking journey south, decimating the bee industry in its wake. In the past month, it has been reported that a new, resistant mite has been found, removing some of the tools in the toolkit to fight this destructive pest. It has also been reported a new biopesticide that works on RNA strands by turning certain genes off, has been developed and Australian beekeepers are seeking its immediate release. This particular biopesticide works on the reproductive system of the mite, stopping it in its tracks. This approach has no documented resistance and could offer much needed reprieve for the industry. The full article can be found [here](#).



FOOD SECURITY

Fear of crop failures on mainland Australia are real. Honey bees contribute \$14.2 billion in value to Australian agriculture, with two-thirds of production benefiting from pollination. The prediction of a shortfall of 290,000 hives for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia this year is modelled on overseas impacts of varroa mite. It is a devastating blow for bees, beekeepers and food security. In response, the When Bee Foundation is developing an Australian Pollination Strategy and will be the first of its kind not just in Australia, but across the world. Read more [here](#).

