

SEPTEMBER 2025



NEWSLETTER



It is always a fun day in the shed and workshop 2 was no exception. STBA Vice President, Ross Gordon, kindly hosted us in his bee shed and introduced us to making bee boxes, frames, jigs, frame wiring and the safe use of hand tools. For some it was the first time picking up a drill and it was encouraging to see how much confidence was built during this session. After learning how to embed foundation, we headed over to the Honey Pot in Grove where we met Nat Wright from Bruny Island Honey to visit the honey bottling room, the observation hive and we also had a chance to buy a range of beekeeping equipment. Thank you to all who attended and to Ross and Nat for hosting us. We will be at Rookwood estate this month.

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HONEY TASTING MASTERCLASS WITH JESSICA LOCARNINI



On **Saturday November 15**, the Bee Queens in collaboration with Jessica Locarnini will be hosting a special honey tasting masterclass event at Willie Smith's Distillery. Jess is Australia's only Honey Sommelier and has been trained in both the USA and Italy, where she recently obtained the highest honour for a honey sommelier by obtaining her honey sensory level 2 pin. Jess will walk us through how to taste honey beyond 'sweet' and we will also have a chance to run our own tasting event and competition. This is an opportunity not to miss..

Read more about Jess's work [here](#).

If you are unable to attend on the Saturday, you may be interested in the event happening down the Tasman Peninsula at Premaydena Hill winery on **Sunday November 16**. Booking links will be available soon., with Bee Queens receiving a 48 hour pre sale advantage for the event at Willie Smith's.

PREMAYDENA HILL WINERY

The plan to bring Jess to Tasmania was originally based around the Nubeena Bee Festival but with the festival taking a break this year, we have partnered with festival organiser, Sylvia Dunn, to provide an expanded honey tasting experience for people in the South. For Bee Queens who live Eastside or down the Tasman Peninsula, this will be an unmissable experience at this stunning venue. Premaydena is one of the best parts of the peninsula, and this event is an opportunity to take a day (or the whole weekend) to experience it. Booking links will be released soon, don't forget to pencil these dates into your diary.



BUILD A WIRE JIG

At Bee Queens, we are always looking for ways to extend your beekeeping experiences. This year, we have partnered with the South Arm Men's Shed to bring you a series of workshops to support all of your beekeeping adventures. The first will be held on Sunday 28th of September where we will be building our own bee frame wire jig. Jigs are customised tools that make a repetitive activity uniform and more efficient, and a wire jig is the perfect tool to ensure the wires on your bee frame are tight every time. Although this workshop is now fully booked, we will also be running at least 2 more workshops - build a bee frame jig and build a solar wax melter. Make sure you get in early as spaces fill fast.



WOMEN+ BEEKEEPERS



ADVERTISE HERE!



This newsletter has been running for over two years and as our community grows, it is time to start looking at other ways we can connect and support each other. Choosing each other as preferred business providers is one way we can do this, so that is why I am offering advertising spaces to our community. For \$5 p/m (\$60 p/a) you can advertise in this newsletter that is distributed monthly and reach an audience of supportive women. Let's help each other succeed by choosing each others businesses. If this is of interest to you, please email me beequeensinfo@gmail.com

BQ EQUIPMENT

For the past few months, we have been busily fundraising for our own extraction equipment. We have successfully raised \$336.70 - early research suggests that this will allow us to purchase a manual extractor and some supporting equipment (uncapper, uncapping fork, uncapping bucket rest etc.) We now need to decide who to purchase this equipment from and find a Bee Queen(s) willing to look after the equipment - could this be you?



JOEY SCOUTS

Bee Queen Suzanne Betts recently attended her local Joey Scouts to talk all things bees, encouraging the next generation of beekeepers. We love seeing how Bee Queens are spreading the love of bees! Recently, the STBA had a constitutional change that now allows the organisation to start working with children. There have been preliminary discussions about how this might look and if you are interested in being a part of this, please contact our secretary and BQ Dawn. Hendrick dawn_hendrick@hotmail.com



BRIDGEWATER LAN

Great news for Bridgewater and surrounding area beekeepers! A new STBA Local Area Network (LAN) has formed under the direction of Lou Sales. Lou is based at the Material Institute in Bridgewater and is looking to build community caretaking of the Institutes' hives. This is a perfect opportunity for BQs who may not have hives yet, would like more experience alongside other beekeepers, or who just want to get involved! Lou can be contacted on email: lou.sales@materialinstitute.org If you would like to join a LAN near you, head to the STBA newsletter for more information.

WORLD BEE DAY

For the past 2 years, Bee Queens has successfully run a fundraising event on World Bee Day for the When Bee Foundation - an Australian based R&D charity for bees. We have raised well over \$1000 for this charity as well as creating education and economic opportunities along the way.

For 2026, we will be working in collaboration with the Material Institute in Bridgewater to bring an expanded event and to reach a wider community - this is a call out to any Bee Queens who may be interested in forming an organising group with me so we can start planning for this event.

Please email me at beequeensinfo@gmail.com

