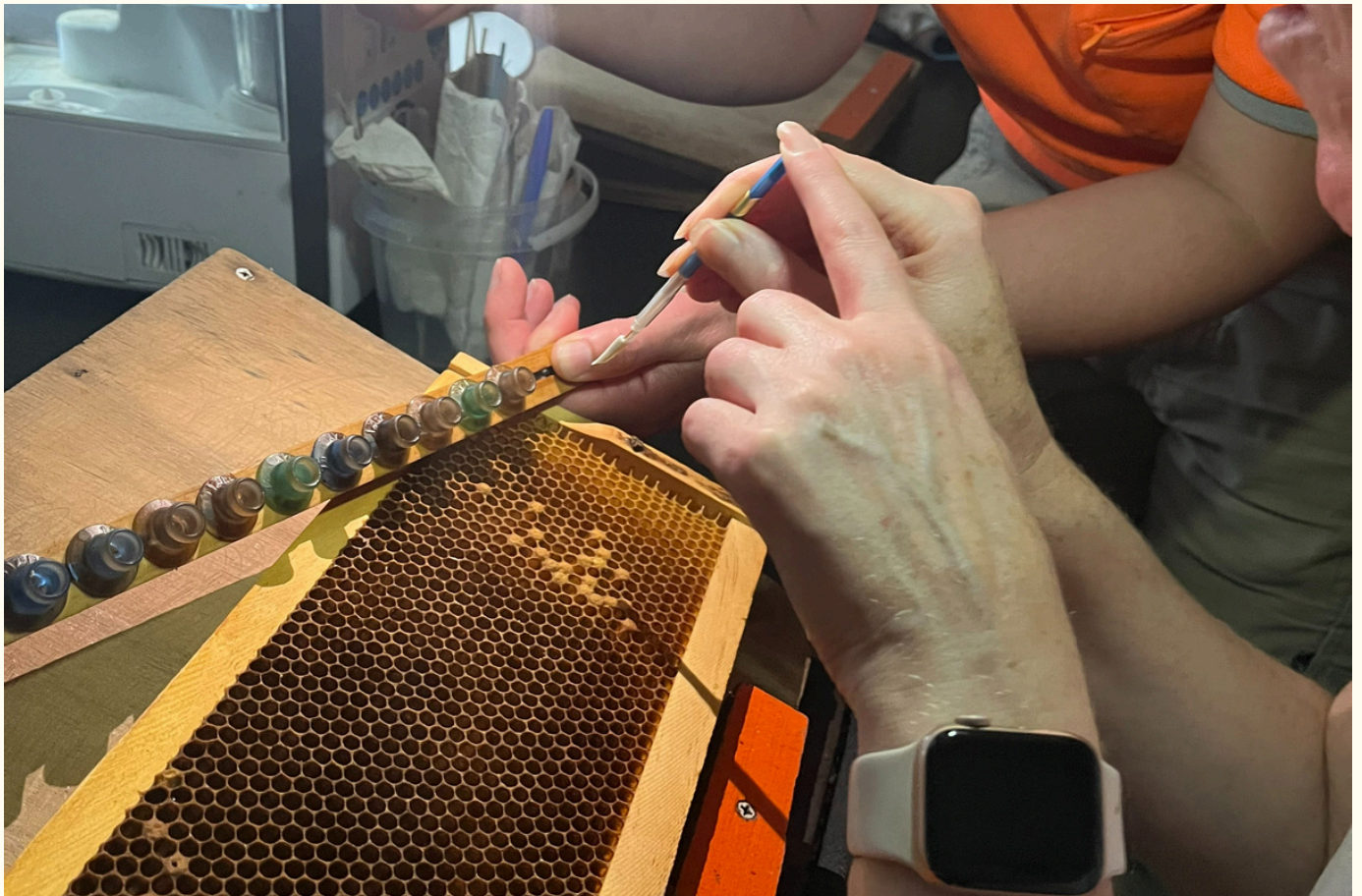


JANUARY 2026



NEWSLETTER



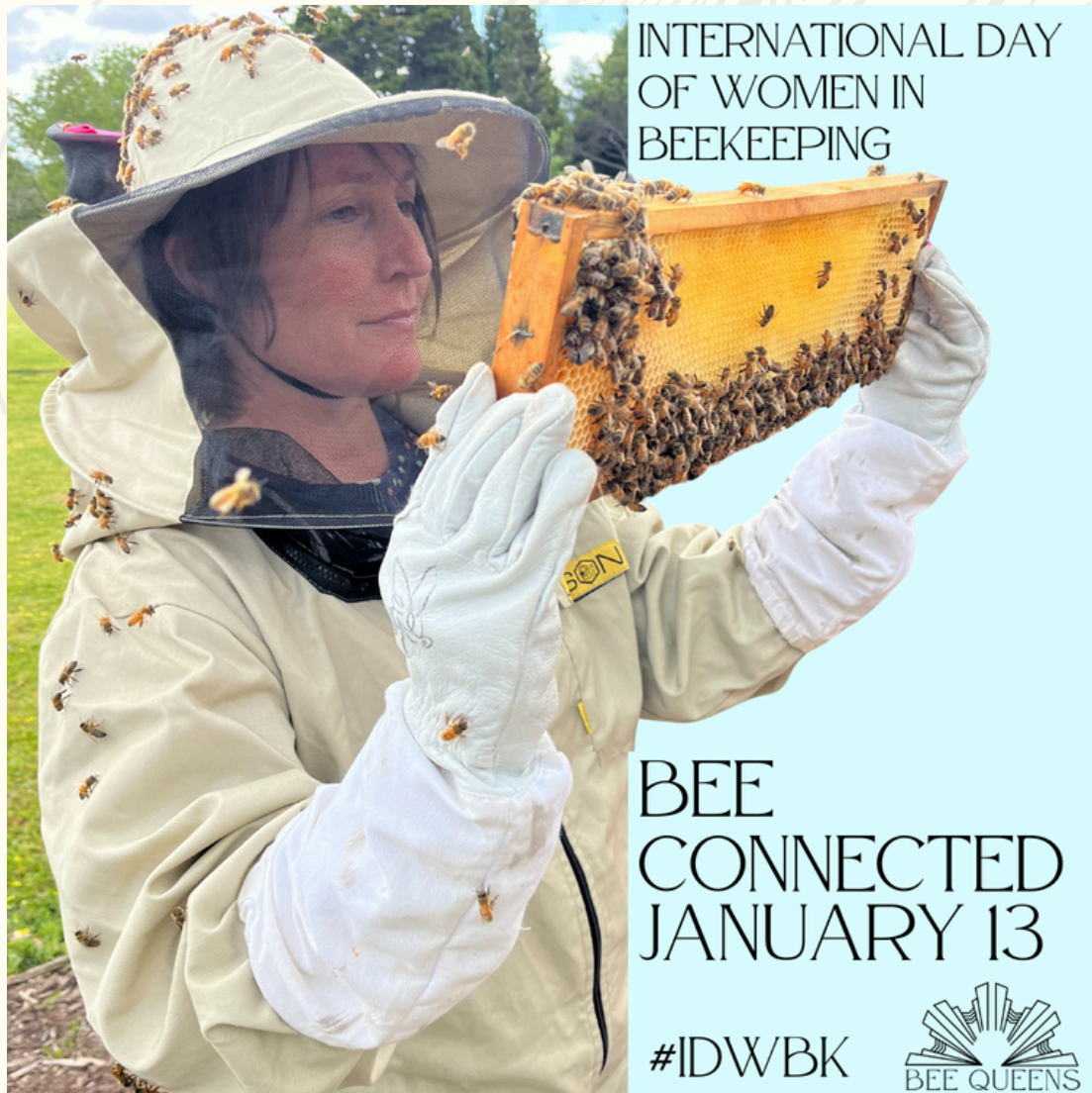
We like to keep the information flowing at Bee Queens, and December was no exception with 2 back to back workshops to keep us all on our toes. Our first workshop was with Ange Oliver at Tasmanian Pollination Services, We call Ange THE Queen Bee for a reason - In addition to being an accomplished beekeeper, Ange has years of extensive global experience in raising queens and generously shared that knowledge with us - including the new Bee Lab for artificial insemination. Thank you to Ange, David and TPS for hosting us. The following day, Apiary Officer Julie Lupia joined us to teach us about bee diseases, how to identify them and what to do if you think you find a problem. Julie also recently published a small handbook to help beekeepers to reference diseases - more detail about this can be found in this edition. Thanks Julie for helping us in December.



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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN IN BEEKEEPING



This event started after we set 2 World Records in beekeeping in 2023. Since then, we have run an annual event to celebrate women in beekeeping every year and all women are encouraged to participate by sharing a picture of themselves completing a beekeeping activity on social media, with the hashtags #idwbk and #beekeepingworldrecord. Searching the hashtags will show you how many women make up our awesome beekeeping community!

And, For the first time since 2023, we are celebrating International Day of Women in Beekeeping with a special in person event on January 13 at the Sustainable Learning Centre at Mt Nelson starting at 10.00am. Bookings are essential, new and experienced beekeepers are encouraged to attend and you can book your ticket [here](#).

HARVESTING HONEY

Harvesting honey is an exciting time of the year. As the bee season is peaking, and if the weather, bees and flowers have all played nicely together you may now be in a position to harvest honey.

As you get to know your area, when plants flower and what produces nectar, you will start to get an idea of when it time to harvest.

Generally speaking - at least 75% of the honey you take needs to be fully capped (ie with a wax capping over the top, not just shiny nectar) and you also want to make sure you leave enough honey for the bees, especially if it is your only (or final) harvest of the year. The exception to this rule is when you are moving bees to a honey flow and in this instance, you would take as much honey as you can from the hive

To remove honey, you will need:

- a bee safe area
- a bee brush and hive tool
- clearer or escape board (optional) *

That is it. A bee safe area can be easily created in your apiary by placing a sealable box close to where you are working. You can use your house, a shed or back of a ute with a canopy, but it needs to be a space that will keep bees out.

Once you have set up your bee safe area, open the hive and select the first frame for removal. Shake the bees off with one firm at the entrance of the hive. Gently remove the remaining bees with your bee brush before putting the frame in the bee safe area.

Repeat until you have all of the honey you plan to harvest.

A word of caution - it is better to take less than more. If you are unsure about how much more honey the bees will bring in, you can do multiple honey harvests throughout the season to monitor the flow and how much honey the bees have at the end of the season.



*a clearer board can be placed below the honey box and the whole box can be removed the following day with minimal disruption to bees or your neighbours

NEW BOOK

Congratulations to our State Apiary Officer, Julie Lupia, on the publication of this excellent handbook and reference guide for bee diseases in Tasmania. Not only does it show you what diseases are currently in our island state, it has fabulous photographs for identification and also informs beekeepers as to whether the disease needs to be reported or not. This is a must have handbook, especially for new beekeepers who may not have experienced bee disease and want to know what to look for. Julie has hard copies of the handbook and you can also access an online copy [here](#).



ONLINE EVENT

In addition to our in person event on January 13 for International Day of Women in Beekeeping, we are also hosting an online Zoom session in the evening, starting at 7pm. This has been set up as a QANDA opportunity, acknowledging that many of you will be working on Tuesday but have some pressing questions or experiences to share. It is also a catch up because our Leatherwood trip has been postponed until February, due to the season running so late (no flowers yet!). This is an opportunity for you to check in, ask questions and to listen and learn from each other. The zoom link can be found [here](#).

BQ SWARM LIST

We are in the process of setting up a swarm list for our Bee Queens community. The list will be hosted on the Bee Queens web page. I know there are many of you who are interested in collecting swarms and who may have previously been on lists hosted by other sites that have since been culled. Although we are reaching the end of the swarm season for this year, we are collecting names, contact numbers and areas you are interested in collecting from, to add to our page. It doesn't matter where you live, people are always in need of swarm and bee nest removal - please also let me know if you are able to remove bee nests.

