

JULY 2025



NEWSLETTER



So what do you do for the last workshop of 24/25? Wax rendering of course! It was a chilly gathering in the Rookwood coolstores but we were ready to learn how to render brood comb, wax cappings and how we can use these gifts from the hive to make different products. Award winning wax renderer, Gary Weiley, joined us and demonstrated how to add those award winning finishing touches (not with a chux cloth, apparently!) and past graduate, Lisa Britzman, also ran a session on rolling wax candles. We also learnt how to make lip balm before we dropped into the Willie Smiths apple shed for a hot cider and a graduation ceremony. Congratulations to all of this year's graduates - it has been an absolute joy to meet all of you, to make new friends and to share your beekeeping experiences. I'm looking forward to seeing where you take your newly minted skills as we continue to build a connected beekeeping community together. You are always welcome here and stay as happy as Leanne in this pic xx ➡



BEEQUEENSINFO@GMAIL.COM

WWW.BEEQUEENS.ORG

0448 515 867



VICTORIAN APIARISTS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE



On June 13, I attended one day of the Victorian Apiarist Association (VAA) conference held in Beechworth.

The conference was incredibly informative with a variety of speakers from Australia and overseas. Of particular note was Associate Professor Cameron Jack from the University of Florida who spoke about the trouble with varroa mite treatments and the mapping work he has done to demonstrate what treatments work best for mite management. Links to his research can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

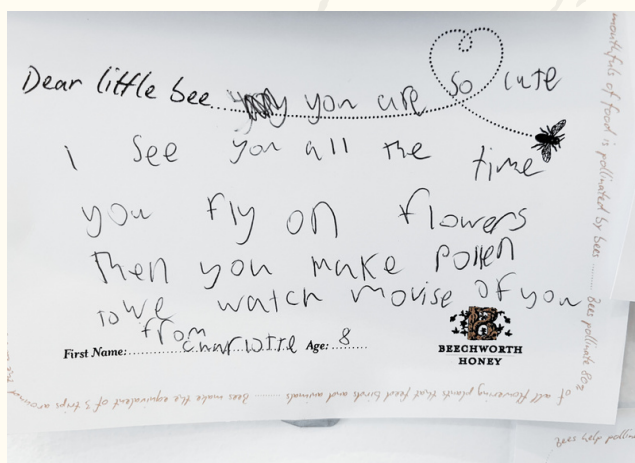
William Meikle, an entomologist from the USDA in Tuscon AZ, was also noteworthy and he presented his research into 3 different mite resistant bee stocks that he has been researching - Russian, Italian and an American breed called Pol-line. Some of his findings demonstrated that Italian bees had an 8 day shorter lifespan than Russian and Pol-line bees, which meant that Italian colonies would need 13% more capped brood to offset the reduced worker lifespan to maintain the same colony size. In his words, more brood equates to more 'hosts' for varroa mite. Both William and Cameron would be worth pursuing to present at one of our meetings.

I also had the chance to catch up with Australia's only Honey Sommelier, Jessica Locarnini and for those who remember, Karla Williams who is now working for Biosecurity in Victoria. It was also a chance to make new connections that will benefit our Association in the future. I encourage anyone thinking about attending this conference to do so, as they produce a quality conference with plenty of learning and social opportunities.

BEECHWORTH HONEY



One of the must do adventures in Beechworth is a visit to Beechworth Honey. Experience the beautiful shop and myriad of honey tastings on offer. In addition to their beautiful products, there is also an observation hive, equipment, books and of particular interest, a honey museum documenting the history of the Goldsworthy family (the Beechworth honey crew) and the beekeeping industry in Victoria. The museum also features little pieces of history like the vintage honey tins (right) and examples of their evolving labelling over the decades (below).



There is also a featured room where the community is invited to write a love letter to the bees. These letters are posted all over the walls for everyone to read and is a lovely 'thank you' and education opportunity for all. If you do get a chance to visit, you must try the Banksia honey - by far my favourite. It is woody, warm and delicious and, because this is commercial honey you ARE able to bring a jar (or 5) back into Tasmania. If this is not to your liking, there are plenty of other honey varieties unique to mainland Australia - all with their own special tastes and aromas.

SECOND EDITION

The Pollination book has just been reprinted for its second edition. This book was written by children for children, in the Huon Valley through a series of workshops facilitated together with local artist Amy Brezincek. The book teaches children about the importance of pollination, the different types of pollinators, how it occurs and what we need to know to protect our pollinators. This book has already taught a generation of young people and along with the Bee Book (now in its 6th edition) will continue to teach children into the future. For your copy visit [40 South Publishing](#) or the [Bee Collective](#) webpage.



NEXT PROGRAM

The next Bee Queens program starts on **Saturday July 26**. We have a long list of interested people. If you are one of them and you haven't received an invoice from me yet, please send me an email at beequeensinfo@gmail.com, to confirm your spot and I will invoice you directly. We have over half of the program with confirmed attendees and as this is our only intake for this year, I do not want keen Queens to miss out! Don't forget to join our facebook group [here](#) and read our past newsletters [here](#) to discover more about our workshops and unique community.



BEE LOSSES

Since the northern hemisphere Spring, we have been tracking the unprecedented bee colony losses and researchers are now getting to the bottom of what has happened. A [research paper](#) published by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), though not yet peer-reviewed, has found nearly all colonies had contracted a bee virus spread by parasitic mites that appear to have developed resistance to the main chemicals used to control them. This has had a devastating downstream impact for beekeepers, pollination and honey production. Read more about these losses [here](#).

