

AUGUST 2024



NEWSLETTER



The room was buzzing as Workshop 1 of the 2024-25 Bee Queens program kicked off. It was wonderful to see so many excited new beeps and to hear about the many different backgrounds from everyone who is joining us this year. We were also lucky to have participants from past programs along for the ride and you could feel the collective energy in the room as we hummed through the day! After meeting each other and a shared morning tea, we spent the next part of the day doing a brief introduction into the different types of bees, what we find inside a hive and we spent some time identifying what we learnt (see pic). It is going to be a fantastic year ahead. This month we will be in Crabtree to learn how to put beehives together, so get your practical hands on for the next session.

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NATIONAL VARROA MITE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WORKSHOPS NOW OPEN

3 workshops for the National Varroa Mite Management Program will begin at the end of August.

The first workshop will be held in Launceston on August 31st, the second workshop will be on September 7th in Hobart and the third and final workshop will be held in Spreyton on September 14.

The training runs from 9am-3pm and is aimed as an introduction to varroa mite, how to identify it in the hive, what to do if you find it and how to treat it.

Bookings can be made via humanitix [here](#).

To stay up to date with everything happening in this space, scan the QR code on the right and sign in.



NATIONAL
Varroa Mite Management
PROGRAM

**Sign up here for the
National Varroa Mite
Management Program
weekly newsletter
update.**



SCAN HERE



FONDANT

Recently, we talked about feeding bees fondant and provided a recipe for those who wanted to give it a try. Bee Queen, Suzanne, decided to buy some bee specific fondant from Victoria to feed her later season nucs.

Suzanne was concerned that they did not have enough food to get through Winter and although she was reluctant to open the hive, she placed the 2kg fondant bag directly on top of the Winter cluster after cutting some slits in the bag for the bees to get to the food.

After 2 weeks, the fondant bag was 3/4 empty (see pic), indicating the bees were indeed hungry and needed feeding. Bees will eat to stay warm, don't forget to check your hives as we start to move towards Spring. Thanks Suzanne for sharing your story.

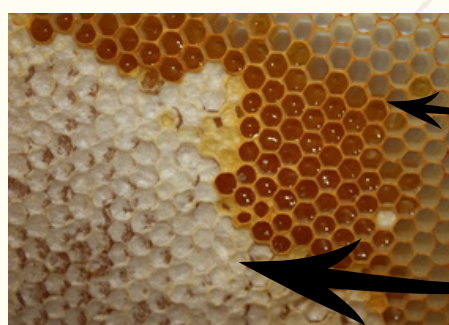
BEEES & BROOD

During workshop 1, there was a request to provide some of the content we studied in colour, so here it is!



Worker bees

Pollen.
Essential protein
in the hive
especially for
feeding larvae.



Uncapped nectar.

Capped honey



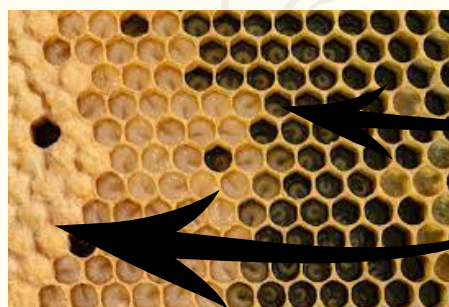
Capped worker
brood.



Drawn wax comb.
Bees produce wax
from their abdomen

Egg. An egg takes
3 days to hatch

Larvae in royal jelly.



Uncapped brood.
Larvae and eggs.

Capped brood
Pupating larvae

Drone



Worker bees

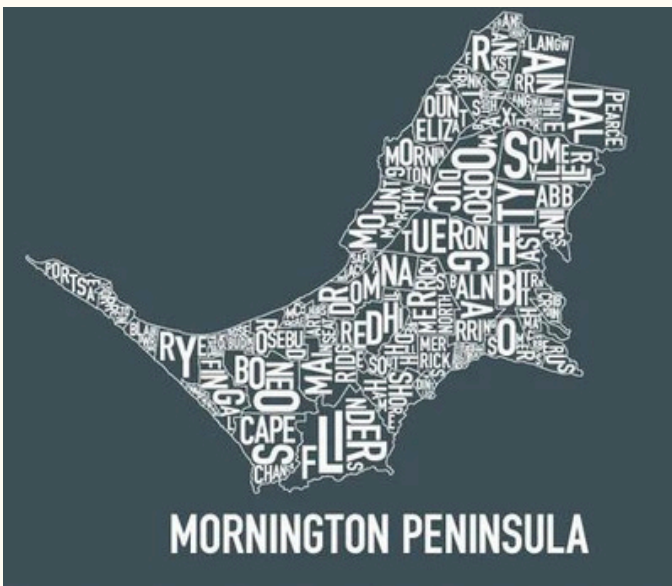


Queen and worker bees



BEE FESTIVAL

The Nubeena Bee Festival will be held on Saturday October 5. This event was highly successful last year with stallholders and participants gaining so much from the well organised day. This year, we will have a Bee Queens stall and you are encouraged to join the table with items that you make. The items don't need to be bee themed (it helps if they are!), and is a wonderful opportunity to test product ideas you may have brewing or already in action. I know there are many of you with ideas and this is your chance to give it a crack.



BEE QUEENS

As mentioned last month, Bee Queens is on a pathway to expand. In June, we applied for some Venture Capital and although we were not successful in receiving this funding, this will not stop us from scaling. On October 12 and 13, we will be hosting a 2 day workshop on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria. The program will include Simon Mulvany from Save the Bees Australia and Honey Sommelier, Jessica Locarnini. If you know any women+ who may be interested in joining our community, please ask them to get in touch!

MORE WOMEN

On Monday July 29, the STBA held its annual AGM. Congratulations to Bee Queen Cath Maloney for her re-election to the Membership Officer role, Melissa Jansen on being elected as our incoming Treasurer and Sam Brown as a first time addition to the executive. Thanks to everyone for also supporting my re-election.. It is the most women we have had on the executive since the organisation formed in 1958. and a testament to our growing community of women beekeepers.

