

JULY 2024



NEWSLETTER



...and just like that we are fully booked for the 2024/25 Bee Queens program! Thanks to everyone who has registered and to all of you who endorsed this program, that in turn has helped to build this community of Queens.. It is YOUR participation that makes us stand out as a community of curious beekeepers. Over the past month, it has been fun mapping out the year ahead and one thing is for sure, it is going to be another fun year of learning together. One of the strengths of this program is that all graduates of previous programs are able to drop into ANY of the sessions in following years. - for this years' dates, see the back page. And, as per other years, we will be travelling to a few different places to give you a comprehensive bee learning experience.



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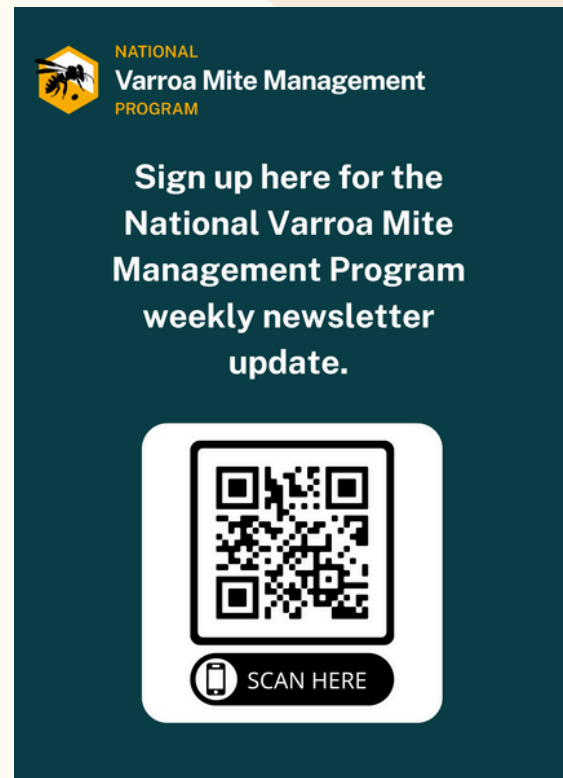
NATIONAL VARROA MITE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In June 2022, varroa mite (*varroa destructor*) was discovered at the Port of Newcastle. At the time, Australia was the only country that did not have varroa and attempts were made to eradicate the mite entirely, because of the damage it causes to bees, industry and ultimately food security. These attempts were to no avail and last year, Australia moved into a management phase, aka 'learn to live with it.'

Once established, varroa mite cannot be eradicated.

In June this year, the National Varroa Mite Management (NVMM) team in NSW put out an EOI for contract trainers to deliver training in every state and territory, and on June 26 - 27 I joined Southern Tasmanian Beekeeper Association colleagues, Ash Newman and Peter Norris to complete a train the trainer program to deliver this valuable training to beekeepers across Tasmania.

There will be 3 training sessions held state-wide - and it will be free for beekeepers to attend. Bookings will need to be made online, but the training will be delivered face-to-face. Keep your eye on this newsletter and the STBA newsletter for the upcoming dates. I also encourage everyone to subscribe to the NVMM to receive updates and invites to upcoming webinars.



GOVERNANCE TRAINING



On Friday 19 July, the STBA is holding governance training for its members. This training is an introduction into governance, and is a chance to learn about the frameworks that modern organisations need to comply with legislation. This training is for anyone interested in learning more, who may have an interest in joining the STBA executive or who have other roles in the community requiring this skill set. Contact beequeensinfo@gmail.com to register.

WINTER JOBS

For beekeepers, Winter is the time of year to get amongst the jobs that need doing before we head full flight into Spring. It is also the time to start planning for expanding your apiary - as we know making splits is one way to expand your apiary and this will require extra equipment - boxes, lids and bottom boards. Getting those jobs in hand now will pay off later in the season, when you are busy checking colonies and extracting honey.

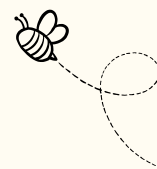
- Conduct an audit of your existing hives and equipment.
- Decide what equipment can be fixed or needs replacing.
- Get rid of equipment that is broken (believe me it can quickly accumulate). Broken frames make great fire starters.
- Decide what you need for spring, remembering to allow 'extra'. This gives you time to extract honey without the pressure of having to get a box straight back on to the hive.



OTHER JOBS

Winter outside of the hives can feel long, but there are plenty of bee related activities that you can do today to keep you busy:

- Wax rendering
- Candle making
- Beeswax wraps
- Project planning
- Research - from beekeeping, to increasing your plant knowledge and what forage is available where you live, now is the perfect time to curl up in front of the fire and learn more.



PROGRAM DATES

2024-25 is about to start, with the first workshop to be held on Saturday July 27 at the Rosny Library, 9.30am-1.30pm. We are looking forward to welcoming new program participants, and all past graduates welcome to attend any or all of these sessions.

- July 27
- August 24
- September 21
- October 19
- November 23
- December 14
- January 18
- February 15
- March 15
- April 19
- May 17
- June 14



SPARK.

VENTURE CAPITAL

Bee Queens is on a pathway to expand. In June, we applied for some Venture Capital to take this program to women+ on mainland Australia. Announcements will be made later in July and while we wait to find out if we have been successful, I am in the middle of planning a two day workshop on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria. The program will be delivered in October. If you know any women on the Peninsula or around Melbourne who may be interested in joining our community, please ask them to get in touch!

STBA AGM

The Southern Tasmanian Beekeepers Association is holding its AGM on Monday July 29, 6.30pm at the Glenorchy Library. Association membership unlocks opportunity, and this time there will be at least 3 women connected to this program running for election. WE NEED YOUR VOTE! This year we proposed and influenced a decision to create a 'Women's Future Fund'. Disbursed funds of about \$5,000 have been set aside for this purpose, and this would not have happened without women in the room. Support us and we can do more



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