

MAY 2026



NEWSLETTER



Workshop 9 for the Bee Queens was all about wintering down a hive. We had an informative morning session in the coolstore with plenty of QandA including feeding and prepping our hives for winter. As we broke for an early lunch, Andrew Smith, from R&R Smith orchards and generous host of our workshops, rolled up on his forklift with an apple box full of 'Southern Bliss' apples and encouraged us to take as many as we wanted as long as we let everyone know about this tasty new variety available at Hill Street (see what I did there!) Regardless of my questionable marketing skills, the apples ARE delicious and we munched down on them as we headed out to the apiary (the very apiary that pollinates 'Southern Bliss' apples, ok I will stop now.) and broke into 5 small groups, applying the skills we learned in the morning. It was fantastic to see how far this group of women have come in 8 months - confidence was everywhere, and when we needed to go back to a hive and reopen it there was plenty of help to be found. Our next workshop is a celebration Of World Bee Day and will be held in conjunction with the Bridgewater LAN on May 16.

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FORT CHIMO

A group of 8 Bee Queens met at Suzanne's House for a fantastic day of wintering down hives, picnic lunch and touring the gorgeous Fort Chimo. The weather was perfect for an explore of this stunning property. Suzanne told us all about the history of her home, drove us around the property and we even walked down a path that led us to some very rare orchids that people from all over the world come to visit. Backing onto the bush, it is no surprise that a range of beautiful wildlife come to visit, and with the gorgeous views of Bruny Island and the Channel, it was very hard to leave, with many of us leaving late in the afternoon. Thank you Suzanne for an excellent day.



DAWN'S MAP

Dawn is a cartography magician. She has come up with a solution for all of us to find each other if/when we need a hand with our hives. It is a google link private map (sorry no link here), but it already has over 20 contact details and has been viewed a whopping 700+ times! The idea is for willing participants to add their name to the map and become part of our contactable network of Bee Queens, willing to seek each other out for support. If you would like to be added to the map, please contact Dawn and she will add you to this growing list of our beek-ing community.
dawn_hendrick@hotmail.com

WORLD BEE DAY

Don't forget about our World Bee Day morning tea this year! It is an annual event the Bee Queens host to raise funds for the When Bee Foundation and this will be the third year we have run an event. This year, we are partnering with the Bridgewater LANC and Material Institute to bring a day of mini workshops, a small market, morning tea and a chance to network with other beekeepers in a gorgeous garden setting. Everyone is welcome to this event with a gold coin donation at the door. 100% of funds raised will go to the foundation for bee research. If you would like to run a small workshop or host a stall please reach out.

