

OCTOBER 2024



NEWSLETTER



Nicola, Sarah
& Trudy

Workshop 3 and we had our first Spring session in the Apple Shed at Rookwood Estate - which is part of R&R Smith organic orchards. The day started off cool and blustery - perfect for an introduction to smokers, looking at a dry hive and discussion about Spring Management. We also had an incidental meeting with estate owner Andrew Smith who chatted with us about the farm, apples and pollination as we headed out to the hives for our first Spring checks. The weather broke for just enough time, with beekeepers from past programs checking 4 of the hives, filling feeders (and realising how far they have come in 12 months!) while the rest of us worked a hive together and started learning techniques for using hive tools, removing boxes and checking frames. This month our raffle was HUGE and for the next 2 months we are donating to Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders - our raffle has definitely been helped along by everyone participating and Bruny Island Honey



drone larvae



BEEQUEENSINFO@GMAIL.COM

WWW.BEEQUEENS.ORG

0448 515 867



HOPE FOR VONNA



Many of you know Vonna Keller.

Von is not only a leader, adventurer, funny AF Bee Queen and all round cool chick, she is also in the middle of the fight of her life. Von's friends have set up a fundraiser and they need our help to get Von across the line. In Von's words:

'My life as a leader has put me in a position to look after others, whether in Antarctica as an field training officer, in the Himalayas as a guide, instructor and first responder, as a mountain safety and first responder at Maydena mountain bike part or on medical wards as a nurse.

'My career and my life dedicated to looking after others ended suddenly eight years ago, when I was diagnosed with metastatic cancer. The doctors gave me just one year to live, but here I am, still fighting, still surviving. It's been a long journey, filled with countless rounds of chemotherapy, radiation treatments, and multiple surgeries.'

Von has been advised that all treatment options have been expired in Australia and Von needs to get to America to access new medical treatments.

Can you help?

[Click here](#) to support Von.. All donations will help Von to achieve her goal - I know we can all get behind Von and her friends as they take this next challenge by the horns.



Queen Von

BEE QUEEN WINNERS



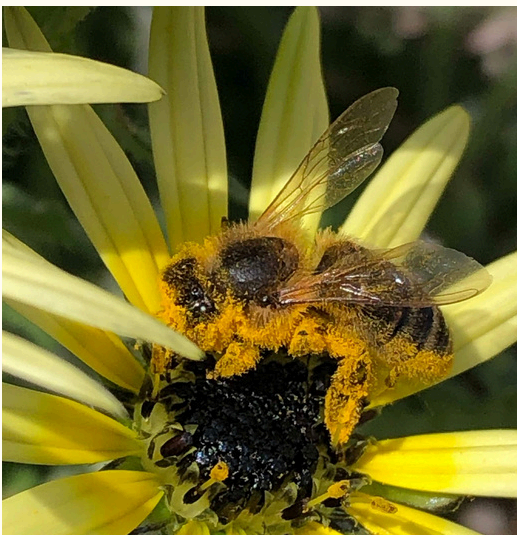
The STBA annual awards night and dinner is a chance to celebrate a year of beekeeping, to thank our many volunteers and to award those who enter the honey competition. A few years ago, new categories were established to highlight the creative talent within the organisation.

Not surprisingly, our incredibly talented cohort of Bee Queens have been winning prizes ever since these categories formed.

Many of you know Lisa Britzman from Campo de Flori. Lisa is a master potter and recently had her work (right) displayed as part of an exhibition at Hadley's Hotel. These Leatherwood ice cream bowls, cake stand and plates, were inspired by a Bee Queens visit to the Leatherwood forests in Tasmania's SW earlier this year.

Lisa won Gold for best Bee Inspired Art.

Hot on her heels was Kristen Hynes who took out second place with her gorgeous smoker and bee artwork (part of the Little Book of Beekeeping) and Gold for the Photography prize.



STBA DINNER

What a wonderful night the Queens (and 1 drone!) had together at the STBA annual awards and dinner. Suzanne had the idea to book a table for the Bee Queens and the evening was attended by participants across 3 years of the program - with some even winning awards! Congratulations to both Lisa Britzman Kristen Hynes on winning awards for their stunning artwork and photography - see previous page for more detail on the awards.



From left-Sarah, Von, Renee, Kristen, Suzanne & Selina
Back - Lisa & Melissa



Leissa, Suzanne & Lisa
enjoying the festival

NUBEENA BEE FESTIVAL

What a cracker day! The Rotary Club and community of Nubeena pulled off an even bigger event than last year and it was an absolute delight to see so many BQs running stalls, visiting the festival and attending to hear the speakers. We were all situated in the centre of the hall alongside our colleagues from the STBA - a show of beekeeping force and a message to all that although beekeeping can be a solo activity, our strength is in the 'Hive mind' of the community. We will have a BQ table again next year - a good chance to join in the fun and market test your ideas.

SWARM LIST

Are you ready for bees? Do you want to grow your apiary? Don't forget to add your name to the STBA swarm list. All you need is your full name, contact phone number and the suburbs you are willing to collect swarms from, and your name will be added to the list. Swarming season is about to kick off, so now is the time to make sure you don't miss out. email the contact us page on the STBA website to secure your listing.

