

BEELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC

OCTOBER 2019



Leptospermum

Upcoming Events (see [website](#) for full details and registration)

Club Monthly Meeting

17th October 2019, 7:00 PM

NewHope,
3 Springfield Rd,
Blackburn North VIC 3130

Rod Waddell

Grand Ridge Propagation Nursery

Australian Leptospermum species for medicinal honey production

See inside for details.

Nuc Nanny, October 2019

Due to limited resources this program sold out very quickly. Participants are currently in the process of making splits and introducing mated queens.

Club Apiary Hive Inspection & BBQ

Saturday 19th October 2019, 11:00 AM

A routine hive inspection will be held at the club apiary for any new or interested members, followed by a BBQ at noon. Bee suits and gloves will be available to borrow.

Please register (free) on the web site to help with catering & to manage numbers.

Note: You need to be logged in to see the event.

Queen Rearing Course

Club Apiary, November 3rd & 4th.

This course covers the biological principles & various methods of queen rearing. Participants will conduct practical exercises in grafting. Places strictly limited.

President's Report

It's swarm season and a busy time for beekeepers. We are trying to always put a positive twist on what we see and an abundance of swarms may be an indicator of a prolific season ahead, based on the thinking that the bees know we are in for a long and productive season and can afford to split.

It is now up to the beekeepers to keep their hives from dividing and becoming a nuisance for others as well as keeping the "workforce" together for nice honey rewards. We have an obligation to be responsible beekeepers in the community and this is important.

Our rights as beekeepers are very much in favour of the beekeeper, as long as you remain compliant with the relevant legislations. With the growing popularity of recreational beekeeping in Victoria, we need to show we are competent and responsible to ensure that there is no reason for the local councils and state departments to have to re-visit the legislations and make things harder or non-viable.

Do you want to have to have a licence or be certified to keep a bee hive in your backyard?

It's up to you all to lead by example and we recognise that you have decided to be member of our club and a part of your beekeeper network which is a great way to have support when needed.

Our club is in great shape at the moment with around 340 members and continual development to both the education and social offerings.

We always, we welcome assistance from members who want to get more involved with the club and this is a great way to potentially test the waters for future committee involvement. There is always plenty going on in the background where extra help can be a huge relief to the committee.

As always, feedback is important to us for understanding what you, the members want from your club. Good or bad, it's how we know if we're on the right track.

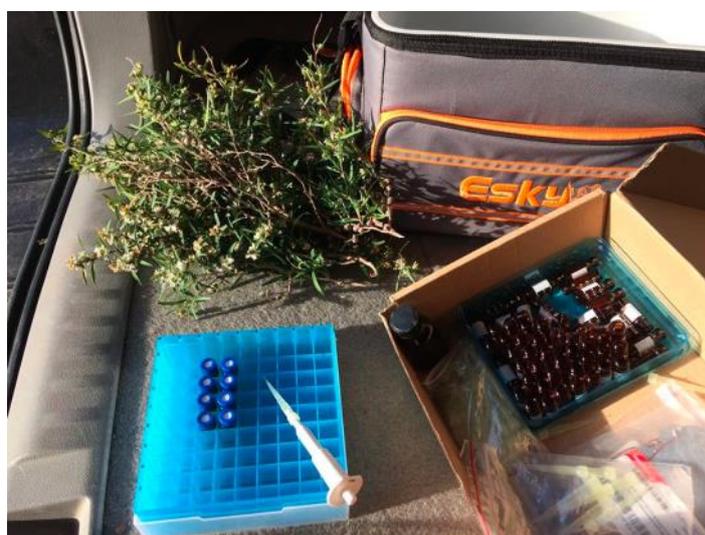
Mat Lumalasi

October Meeting Speaker

Rob Waddell

Rob established Grand Ridge Propagation nursery in 1999, based near Warragul in West Gippsland, Victoria. Revegetation and native windbreak species are produced in tubes and hiko trays for farmers, landcare, local councils and Melbourne Water. A tree planting service is also an important part of the business. Over a million seedlings have been produced, and 250,000 trees planted in the last 20 years.

In 2015, Rob began investigating Australian *Leptospermum* species for medicinal honey production following a discussion with a local beekeeper. Hundreds of plants have been nectar tested through the University of the Sunshine Coast to assess DHA levels, a process that has involved many thousand's of kilometers travel. Ten species are currently being propagated with a combined flowering period of approximately nine months across all species. Seedlings are only produced from high DHA parent plants that have been nectar tested. Cuttings have been taken from the very highest testing *Leptospermum scoparium* to rapidly increase the ability to produce superior lines. Other species will be propagated by cutting as material becomes available. A consultancy service for landowners wanting to establish *Leptospermum* plantations has also been added to the suite of services.



Nectar testing

Welcome Club Newbees

We extend a warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the club:

John Maher	Camberwell
Ben Mahoney	Lower Plenty
Peter Miller	Wheelers Hill
Bryce Pyatt	Huntingdale
Diane Knight	Huntingdale
Mark Tregurtha	Camberwell
Horatio Yen	North Warrandyte

First Bee Meeting Stickers



It can be daunting for new members to attend their first monthly meeting. We are introducing these stickers to help break the ice.

If this is your first meeting, please let us know when you check in & we can pop one of these stickers on your shirt.

Regular members, please look out for our new members and introduce yourself and welcome them to our club.

Save the Date

Templestowe Hotel (Festive December Dinner)

Join us for dinner for our last meet up of the year at the Templestowe Hotel.

We have reserved the restaurant upper floor so we can socialise and celebrate the club's successful year.

The event is being generously subsidised for members and guests.

For details and registrations log on to our web site, <https://www.beekeepers.org.au/event-3584927>

Swarms

Swarming season has started in earnest with 17 large swarms reported on the club web site. Five swarms were reported in the last 2 weeks of September and 12 reported in the first week of October. The clear standout is Box Hill South with 4 swarms.

Interestingly people often hear the swarm before they go and investigate and see it arriving. The majority were large, primary swarms with up to 20,000 bees, enough to fill an 8 frame deep box.

Hopefully you are managing your hives well during this busy period and not letting them swarm of their own accord, creating a nuisance in the neighbourhood. Give your colony room to expand as bee numbers are building up quickly.

We encourage beekeepers to do the responsible thing and collect swarms in your area even if they don't come from your hives. It's much easier to capture a swarm before they set up home in someone's compost bin, roof or chimney!

Whether or not you collect a swarm, please log in to the club's web site and report it so we can track and get a better understanding of swarming around Melbourne and surrounding regions. You can report it here:

<https://beekeepers.org.au/page-18162>



A couple of large, primary swarms, October 2019. The first needed to be shaken from the lemon tree branch. Cutting small branches made collecting the second swarm a gentler process. Both were too big for a 5 frame nuc.



I've heard of several swarm lure boxes and regular bee boxes successfully attracting swarms this year. A hint of lemon grass oil or commercial product (Swarm Commander) makes them even more attractive.

Training Update

The September & October 2019 Beginner Beekeeping Courses provided training for a total of 64 participants. Both trainers and attendees enjoyed wonderful and productive days. Many attendees demonstrated their new knowledge, successfully completing an online quiz and we received very positive feedback.

Newbees always appreciate the hands on experience in the hives and learnt lots. Thanks go to everyone involved in making the days a great success: John Treloar, Mat Lumalasi, Helmut Huber, Natalie Doran-Browne and Debbie Webber.

The 2019 Nuc Nanny program got off to a great start October 12. We fortunately had great weather for getting into the hives.

The enthusiastic participants were attentive and asked great questions as we went over the principles and techniques of the process. Later we successfully made the splits (after locating the queens) and introducing the mated, caged queens.



CherryHill Blossom Festival

Photos by Linda Ferguson

On September 28th the club social outing to the CherryHill Blossom festival was a sell out with 50 members taking advantage of the free tickets instead of watching the football.

The orchards began in 1940 with George Riseborough planted his first cherry trees there. Over 75 years later, George's family still continue to produce delicious cherries.



The venue was well set up to cater for the hundreds of people attending—from traffic management and parking to musical entertainment and food trucks.

Patrons enjoyed a cherry spritzer on entry. Other cherry products and a range of plants were available on the day.

While it was mostly overcast and cool, the day proved to be quite successful. The cherry blossoms were just beginning and were being worked by bees. The following week or two would have seen quite a spectacle.



Library News

New to the library:

The Backyard Beekeeper, Kim Flottum.

The Backyard Beekeeper, now in its 4th edition, makes the time-honoured and complex tradition of beekeeping an enjoyable and accessible backyard pastime that will appeal to urban and rural beekeepers of all skill levels.

The Bee Book, Dorling Kindersley.

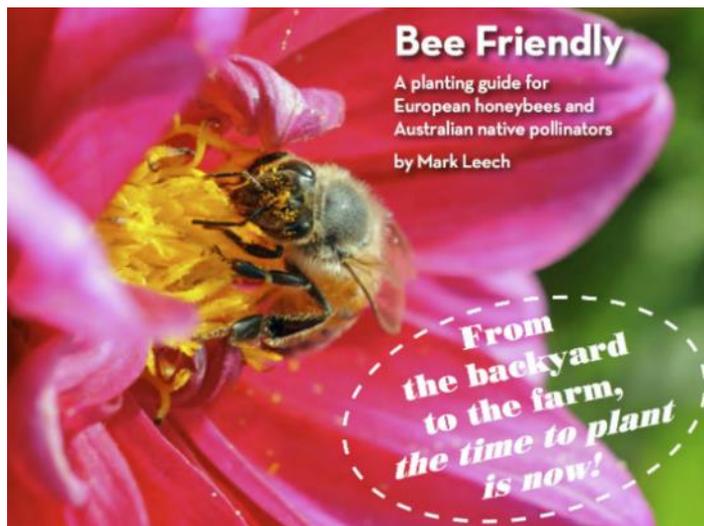
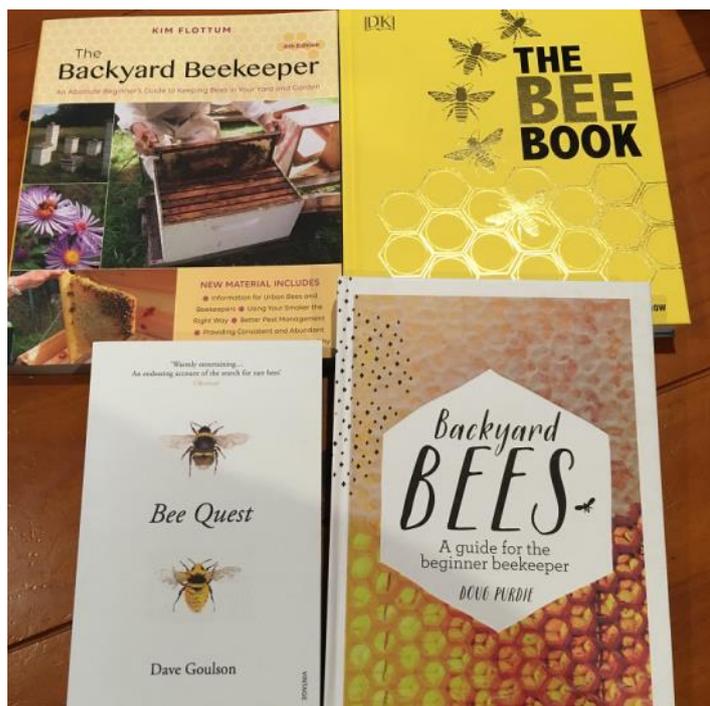
The Bee Book is an intensely visual exploration of the big questions in bee science and ecology.

Bee Quest, Dave Goulson.

A hunt for the world's most elusive bees leads Dave Goulson from Poland to Patagonia as well as closer to home, amongst the secret places hidden right under our noses

Backyard Bees, Doug Purdie.

Backyard Bees is the ultimate guide to installing and maintaining a hive through the seasons. Learn how easy it is to keep happy, healthy bees, and how and when to harvest the liquid gold.



You can download a free ebook copy of the book, Bee Friendly A planting guide for European honeybees and Australian native pollinators by Mark Leech. Produced by the Australian Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation.

<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/12-014.pdf>

The book contains planting guides for both Australian native and exotic plants perfect for honeybees and Australian native pollinators in urban and rural environments, and for various climates.

This book includes the times of year when the recommended plants flower, so with the right plant selections, you can have bee forage plants in flower all year round.

We will look at getting a hard copy version for the library in the next few months.

Condolences

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Eugene Mialzygrosz from Plenty who passed away recently.



In the Hive

Mat Lumalasi

Warm, cool, warm.....

By now we should have been through our hives already and know how they wintered and more than likely, started adding boxes for the population explosion and nectar coming through the entrance.

We suggest at this time of the year that you should be getting into the hives every 10-12 days for best swarm prevention practice but it has been a typical spring so far with the yoyo weather.

Has anyone noticed the cruel prank being played on them? 24-26°C during the week and then 16-17°C for weekends. This makes it interesting to plan your inspections.

As we know the brood nest is kept at around 35°C all season and this means that the bees inside are in full breeding mode for spring and if swarming is on their mind, that's what we will see on the next warmish day, usually right before you are about to go out and inspect.

So, what's the trick to manage this in inclement weather? Stack boxes on top for extra room? Cut out brood? Split? Grin and bear the hostility of the bees? Go on holiday?

Realistically, you can only know what's going on inside the hive by looking inside the hive, so pick your day and hours and get in there.

Low pressure fronts on the horizon will change the behaviour of the bees and it may be less than ideal, so plan your inspection and don't get distracted with other tasks.

In and out, smoothly and swiftly. No looking for Queenie. No need to check how capped honey is. Straight to the brood and checking for queen cells and then quickly ensuring there is enough room for continual laying of eggs for the queen and then close it back up.

You have now bought yourself another 10-12 days and can wait for the perfect day to open the hive up and do your thorough inspections.

Another option is the springtime split if you

are looking to increase your hive numbers.

This task can be done very quickly and the "walkaway" method is easy to do.

Brood, nurses, food (pollen and nectar) and fresh eggs are split between both hives and left to raise a new queen in the hive that is queenless.

Always keep in mind your requirement to comply with the code of practice and ensure you stay on the right side of the regulations.

Good luck with your management choices....

Flora—October 2019

Red Box (round leaf) is flowering well in the Warrandyte/Templestowe/Eltham/Diamond Creek area.

Yellow Gum – Still flowering regionally and some still flowering in Melbourne's suburbs.

Messmate and Red Gum are budding up and looking good for flowering in December.

Peppermint gums are in heavy flower but no nectar being reported.

Lemon scented gum *Corymbia citriodora* is coming into flower around Melbourne. Clover is finishing – bees feisty this season. Cape weed – great source of pollen for hives.



The Bee: "The Most Important Living Being on the Planet"

By Physics and Astronomy Zone
Global Research, September 30, 2019



Its sting hurts a lot, but if they were to disappear, it would hurt much more.

The Earthwatch Institute concluded in the last debate of the Royal Geographical Society of London, that bees are the most important living being on the planet, however, scientists have also made an announcement: Bees have already entered into extinction risk.

Bees around the world have disappeared up to 90% according to recent studies, the reasons are different depending on the region, but among the main reasons are massive deforestation, lack of safe places for nests, lack of flowers, use uncontrolled pesticides, changes in soil, among others.

Why has bees been declared as the most valuable being on our planet?

The Apiculture Entrepreneurship Center of the Universidad Mayor (CeapiMayor) and the Apiculture Corporation of Chile (Cach) with the support of the Foundation for Agrarian Innovation (FIA), conducted a study where it was determined that bees are the only living being that it is not a carrier of any type of pathogen, regardless of whether it is a fungus, a virus or a bacterium.

The agriculture of the world depends on 70% of these insects, to put it more clearly and directly, we could say that 70 of 100 foods are intervened in favor by bees.

Also the pollination that the bees make allows the plants to reproduce, of which millions of animals feed, without them, the fauna would soon begin to disappear.

The honey produced by bees, not only serve as food, but also provide many benefits to our health and our skin.

According to a quote attributed to Albert Ein-

stein, If the bees disappear, humans would have 4 years to live¹.

What are the reasons and hypotheses attributed to the early disappearance of bees?

The Federal Institute of Technology of Switzerland, proposes a theory that blames the waves produced thanks to mobile telephony. They explain that these waves



emitted during calls are capable of disorienting bees, causing them to lose their sense of direction and therefore their life is put in danger.

The researcher and biologist Daniel Favre, along with other researchers, made 83 experiments that show that bees in the presence of these waves, produce a noise ten times higher than usual, behavior that has been observed to make it known to other bees. They are in danger and it is important to leave the hive.

Undoubtedly, the greatest reason for its disappearance is attributed to the constant fumigation of crops, an example of this is what happens in Colombia, since during the last three years 34% of bees with agrottoxins have died of poisoning.

Are there solutions to the problem?

There are indeed solutions, the problem is that it is very difficult to carry them out, because there are very entrenched practices in production and agriculture.

However, three solutions are proposed with the hope that they can be done in a short time:

- Prohibit, not reduce, the use of toxic pesticides.
- Promote completely natural agricultural alternatives.
- Perform constant research and monitor-

ing of the health, welfare and conservation of bees.

This is an example of the problem that is being experienced with bees and the urgency of creating changes in our management of resources, says Luciano Grisales, representative to the Chamber of Commerce of Colombia.

It is of vital importance to establish the strategic nature of the protection and repopulation of bees and other pollinators, since not to do so in 10 years would not be counted on bees in Colombia. This would lead to a food catastrophe and a health crisis in the country. – Luciano expressed to Sustainable Week. ■

Editor's note

¹<https://quoteinvestigator.com/2013/08/27/einstein-bees/>

There is no substantive evidence that Einstein ever made a remark of this type about bees. Alice Calaprice, the editor of the important collection "The Ultimate Quotable Einstein", place the saying in the "Probably Not by Einstein" section of her reference.

The earliest evidence known to QI of a connection between Einstein and disastrous environmental scenarios caused by the disappearance of bees was published in the "Canadian Bee journal" in 1941.

"If I remember well, it was Einstein who said: "Remove the bee from the earth and at the same stroke you remove at least one hundred thousand plants that will not survive."

QI has located no supporting evidence that Einstein made the remark above. Instead QI has determined that a statement of this type was made by the major literary figure Maurice Maeterlinck in his work "The Life of the Bee" in 1901.

In May 1965 a French periodical about nature and animals called "La Vie des Bêtes" stated that Einstein had calculated a grim four year time limit for humanity if bees disappeared. This was the earliest evidence known to QI of a connection between Einstein who died in 1955 and the dire deadline.

See the above reference for more detail of the sequence of citation that attempt to outline the evolution of this expression.

AFB Detected

I've had two reports of American Foulbrood (AFB) in the last few weeks. This is not cause for alarm—AFB is endemic. You do, however, need to know and understand how to deal with the various pests and diseases of honey bees.

One was an apparently strong, healthy looking hive but the tell-tale roping out matchstick test of affected brood.

The second was a post by Barrythebeeman on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/barrythebeeman/posts/746176929136862>

AFB DETECTED CLYDE NTH/BERWICK (VICTORIA)

I went to do a cutout of two hives today in a North Clyde house that is about to be demolished later this week.

I used my thermal camera on the first hive and it was a dead out. The other one was humming along, but looked a little light on for foragers from the outside.

I decided to inspect the dead out first and sure enough, I found AFB (American Foul Brood). AFB is a deadly disease for European Honey bees and it can easily be spread by other neighbourhood bees back into their hives, propagating the disease. Once a honey bee colony contracts AFB it is terminal. It will die out slowly over several months. There is NO known cure.

I also found signs that the dead out hive had been robbed out, I assume by the stronger one that was only 20 meters away.

I decided not extract the live hive and I am referring it to the DPI tomorrow to seek advice on what to do with it. I do not want to



extract the live colony as I think that it is also infected with AFB and if I did extract it and bring it to one of my apiaries, I would only spread the infection to them as well.



Comment

Would you be able to recognise AFB in your hive?

Do you know what to do?

Be very wary of purchasing second-hand bee-keeping equipment.

Characteristics of AFB:

- Larvae usually die after being capped.
- Dead larvae are fully stretched along the floor of their cells and dry to hard black scales.
- Dead larvae can be found in capped and uncapped cells.
- Cell cap sunken, darkened, greasy appearance.
- Perforated cappings.
- Rancid smell can accompany late stages of the disease.
- Spores can remain dormant for 50 years. Hives must be destroyed or irradiated.
- The department must be notified

The Biosecurity Code of Practice states:

4.4 If a beekeeper identifies American foulbrood in a hive they must, after the field

bees have returned to the hive, immediately isolate the affected hive and any contaminated appliances and take steps to prevent the risk of spread of disease from the hive. This includes:

- a. Destruction of all bees in the hive, and
- b. rendering and maintaining the hive and appliances bee-proof until they are cleaned, sterilised or destroyed as appropriate. In this context "bee-proof" means eliminating bee access to the affected appliances, hive and hive contents including honey that may leak from the hive.

4.5 If it is not reasonable to immediately implement the steps in 4.4 and the hive is not in danger of being robbed, they must be completed within seven (7) days.

4.6 A beekeeper must eliminate American foulbrood from an infected hive by sterilisation or destruction as soon as is reasonable but, in any case, before sale or reuse of the hive.

4.8 Frames, combs and hive mats and any plastic parts must not be dipped in hot wax but must be destroyed by burning or irradiated as appropriate.

4.11 Appliances likely to be contaminated with American foul brood must be scrubbed or steam cleaned to remove all traces of honey, beeswax and propolis prior to rinsing in clean water.

4.12 A beekeeper must not use any antibiotic for the purposes of controlling American foulbrood in hives.

Sending a honey sample off to a laboratory each year to test for the presence of AFB spores is a great way to detect the disease at an early stage so that it can be dealt with before the problem grows.

It's a simple process that we've covered in previous newsletters. The Club has test kits available at our monthly meetings during the honey harvest and club members can claim reimbursement for part of the cost.

Alternatively, you can contact Gribbles Veterinary Pathology directly to mail out a test kit: Phone 1300 307 190.

In My Apiary

John Treloar

What would you do if you came across this during an inspection?



Hopefully your first reaction isn't to tear down the queen cells. You need to understand what's going on or you may make your colony hopelessly queenless.

Queen cells can be a sign the colony is going to swarm. They can also be *emergency queen cells* if the hive went queenless or *supersedure cells* if the queen is failing.

Swarm cells are often found around the edges of the frames and there are usually many of them (a dozen or more). Supersedure and emergency cell are usually few in number (1 - 5) and are in the centre or top of the frame. This is only a guide to the type of queen cells.

Are they just queen cups or developing queen cells? In this case they are drawn out much further than queen cups and they contain larvae as you can see in this photo.



Destroying queen cells will rarely stop a colony from swarming. Once you see larvae in queen cells the colony is usually committed to swarming and little can be done to dissuade them. In that case you need to perform a "controlled" or artificial swarm.

You need to know if the hive has a queen. Find her or eggs or very young larvae. These queen cells are at about day 7 from when the egg was laid.

If you don't have a queen (or she's failing—the brood pattern is scattered or almost non-existent) and the bees have good genetics (calm, good honey producers and disease resistant) then you can let the process continue.

In this case I had done a split a few days before and was planning on introducing a mated queen. I destroyed the emergency queen cells as colonies usually reject an introduced queen if they are raising their own queen.

Chest Freezers

A chest freezer is very useful for freezing an entire box and frames before storing. Freezing for 24 or 48 hours is enough to kill all stages of wax moth and small hive beetle before storing boxes and frames.

The freezing time depends on the temperature and times begin when the frames/combs reach the desired temperature:

- 6.7°C at 4.5 hours
- 12.2°C at 3 hours
- 15.0°C at 2 hours.

I have a Hisense 145L freezer that I find invaluable. This retails for around \$288. Kogan is currently advertising Devanti 145L chest freezers (list price \$899.95) for \$61.95 + delivery.

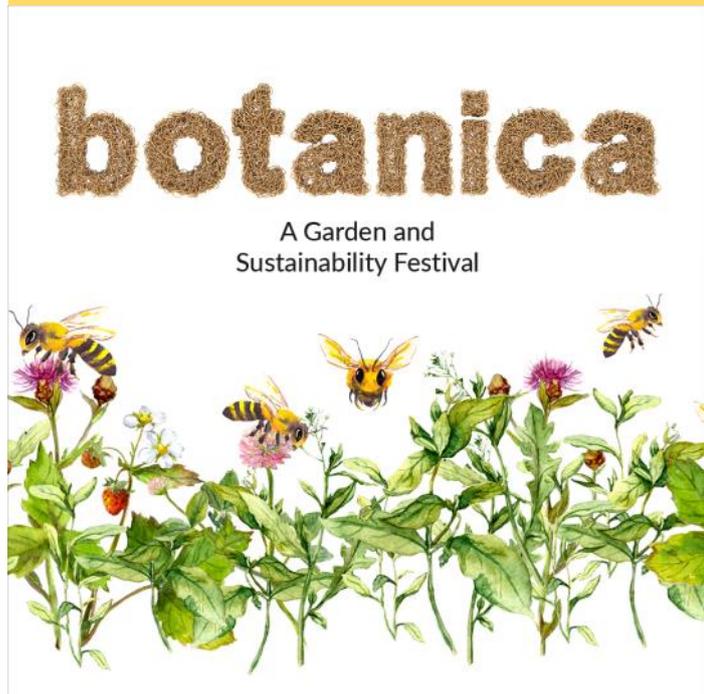
<https://www.kogan.com/au/buy/devanti-145l-chest-freezer-white-devanti/>

And Devanti 200L chest freezers for \$85.95

<https://www.kogan.com/au/buy/devanti-200l-chest-freezer-white-devanti/>

This is not a recommendation but just an apparently good deal that has been brought to our attention.

Botanica Event



Rippon Lea House & Gardens
192 Hotham Street
Elsternwick VIC 3185

10AM - 3PM

SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

A Garden & Sustainability Festival

The Beekeepers Club will be present.

Botanica brings together all the garden inspiration you need to celebrate Australia's natural wonders.

Plant some fresh ideas in a day of workshops, market stalls, curated experiences and exclusive talks throughout the heritage grounds of Rippon Lea. There'll be a special talk by Clive Blazey on heirloom seeds, an awe-inspiring exhibition from the Ikebana International Society, an immersive soundscape tour through the iconic fernery, plant and book sales, and a selection of organic wines and beers to wash it all down.

And like the best things in life, this event is free.

You can find a map of the site here:

<https://beekeepers.org.au/resources/Club%20Documents/Misc/Botanica%20Map.pdf>

40th Annual Beekeeping Field Day



Facilitated by Bendigo Branch V.A.A. Inc.

Sunday 13th October 2019

9.30 AM - 3.30 PM

Harcourt Leisure Centre
Bingham's Road, Harcourt

PRACTICAL OPEN HIVE DEMONSTRATIONS
(Bring your own protective equipment - or buy it here)

HOBBYIST OR BEGINNERS CORNER

MATED QUEEN BEE SALES

To avoid disappointment please order well ahead of the date. (To Order Contact Max Maunder 03 5446 7911 P.O.A.)

AUCTION OF BEE GOODS

An opportunity to make some cash after cleaning out your sheds. Sales will be on a commission basis. For further information please contact Bill Shay 0419 337 276

EXTRACTING HONEY • SPECIALISED MACHINERY

REFRESHMENTS (including lunch)

ENQUIRIES: Carol 03 5446 7911

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