

BeeAware Newsletter



Bees leaving 'drill hole' trails across WA's Gascoyne

A native species of bee, the Dawson's burrowing bee, unique to Western Australia's north-west, is leaving a distinct trail across the Gascoyne region, as hatchlings emerge from the ground.

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Search for Asian honey bee queen in NT ramps up

The search for an Asian honey bee queen is being ramped up in the Northern Territory towns of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Elliott this week. The queen bee may have entered the Northern Territory as part of an Asian honey bee nest found on the cargo of a truck about eight weeks ago.

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Some honey bee colonies adapt in wake of deadly mites

A new genetics study of wild honey bees offers clues to how a population has adapted to Varroa mite which has devastated bee colonies worldwide. The findings may aid beekeepers and bee breeders to prevent future honey bee declines. This research has interesting repercussions for Australian honey bees and whether they can develop Varroa resistance on their own.

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GM lite – technology will benefit crops without damaging DNA

Crop sprays that mimic the effects of genetic modification without changing the underlying DNA promise to usher in a farming revolution. The reverse genetics technology is being developed to give plants more nutrients, arm their natural defences against diseases and to create high-precision pesticides that kill only a single species of insect.

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International researchers unite to save colonies from collapse

Australia will take a leading role in an international research initiative to prevent the collapse of honey bee populations. The CSIRO-led Global Initiative for Honey bee Health will seek to address the threats to honey bees through a world-wide data collection exercise.

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Phytochemical helps differentiate workers from queen bees

New research from the University of Illinois shows the consumption of a plant chemical found in honey and pollen may help set a female honey bee on its course to becoming a worker instead of a queen.

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Bee industry peak body warns of potentially damaging aphid control methods

Attempts to control green peach aphid in canola crops could potentially have a devastating impact on the Australian bee and pollination industry. The aphid is believed to be causing the spread of the damaging beet western yellows virus (BWYV) in canola crops in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

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Attractant and preference of *Apis cerana* Java genotype

This project tested the attractiveness of readily available flora scents and commercially available products to determine their attractiveness to Asian honey bee, *Apis cerana*, for use in baiting stations. The project summary can be downloaded from the RIRDC website.

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Backyard beekeeping is latest urban craze

They might not be your standard household pets, but city dwellers are reaping the rewards of the latest urban trend – beekeeping.

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Bees get busy in Sydney

A colony of more than 90,000 bees has sprung into action in a suburban North Rocks backyard, collecting pollen from neighbouring gardens.

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Flinders Island frontier for manuka honey

A Flinders Island beekeeper is spreading tea tree seeds across Flinders Island in an effort to produce active medicinal Manuka honey.

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