

FEWSTER Beekeeping OVER THE YEARS

1930

• Honey was extracted on site, by hand spinning a few frames at a time, which was then placed, into 1 gallon tins. Beehives were kept close to home and only moved approximately 30 miles away from home due to the abundance of bush and large eucalypt trees.

1940-1950

• A bigger truck to move bees further a field was used and the extraction of honey was done in a specially built mobile honey extracting caravan on site. New honey extracting equipment would spin 30 frames at a time.

1960-2000

• There was a requirement to move bees further afield due to loss of bushland, trees slowly being removed, dying or being clear felled in state forests and urban sprawl. Bigger trucks were used to move hives around, sometimes travelling distances of 650kms to productive sites due to extensive clearing.

2004

• Saw a substantial increase in honey prices due to world and Australian shortage of good honey. A greater shortage of honey, due to too not enough rain over the past few years to sustain the growth in our native bush land reserves and eucalypt forests. Quality assurance issues and health control have seen changes in the extraction of honey now taking place to central extraction buildings with stainless steel equipment and large central extractors taking up to 128 frames at a time.

2005/2006

• Has seen a dramatic decrease in the world price for honey due to Argentina and China entering the market in a big way. At this present time it is sad to see honey prices below the cost of production and it raises the question as to the future of professional/commercial beekeeping in Australia specially when "Western Australia" has the best/cleanest honey in the world.

2011

• After so many years of low rain falls, we have seen many large areas of our beautiful big Eucalyptus Trees and Banksia Woodlands dying.

2012/2013

• We continue to manage our bees and have had a successful honey season and welcomed a reasonable Jarrah flow. The first for some years.

2013/2014

• The spring was ok. Not a lot of honey since we are waiting on the Redgum to burst into flower to help our bees through the winter months. There still remains a world problem with the loss of bees from CCD. It is thought due to the overuse of chemicals and the spraying of crops.

2014/2015

• our bees have been very busy with a good spring flow, Whitegum, Jarrah, the Coastal / Candle Banksia flowering well in the Banksia woodlands and the Redgum enjoying the late rains and putting on some new growth.

2015/2016

• Our beekeepers have been busy all year with an excellent spring crop. Great to see the Parrot Bush flowering well, it has been a long time - since 2003. The Jarrah also produced well, followed by Redgum, a bit of winter Menzies Banksia too with our bees working right through the winter with the changing climate the spring country is flowering early. We just need to keep the rain coming to secure our eucalypts to keep producing.

• The Karri trees are flowering and our bees are bringing in the honey. Karri honey is now available.

• John & Kerry have semi retired and Stephen and Paul will continue our family beekeeping business with their nephew Jack taking an interest in the bees and working with them.