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# Bee Ambassador Program

Friday 21 June to  
Monday 24 June 2019



FOOD  
SECURITY  
NEEDS  
**BEE**  
SECURITY



**WHEN BEE**  
FOUNDATION

## Bee Ambassador Program

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### A message from the CEO

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Bee Ambassador. This initiative was launched in 2018 after listening to numerous bee champions who volunteer their time as passionate and dedicated advocates for bees. Being endlessly uplifted by their stories, I wanted to provide an opportunity for them to share their initiatives with others who are similarly enthusiastic about bees and inspired to make a difference.

Henry Ford once said *"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."* This Bee Ambassador Program is just a beginning, but I hope that it will be the beginning of great things ahead. Any future direction will be determined by you — the participants.

When Bee Foundation is providing a vehicle with a bit of fuel to get things started. It is up to you to decide if you want to drive it and where you want it to go.



**Fiona Chambers**  
CEO, When Bee Foundation

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**"Alone we can do so little,  
together we can do so much."**

..... Helen Keller .....

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## Bee Ambassador Program

Linking bee volunteer advocates from diverse backgrounds:

- **Beekeepers**
- **Researchers**
- **Farmers**
- **Land & resource managers**
- **Other interested supporters**

### Objectives

- To unite and support Bee champions in pursuit of a shared Bee Purpose.
- To leverage the collective impact through increasing the scale, reach and momentum of bee advocacy activities.

### Residential Training Aims

- Increase awareness of bee research and its importance in Australia
- Encourage learning, cooperation and innovation
- Develop advocacy skills and practices
- Enable close connections to be formed between bee champions
- Facilitate the sharing of great ideas and initiatives
- Identify new project activities for implementation
- Prioritise resources that support advocacy

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## Program Leaders



### **Fiona Chambers**

CEO, When Bee Foundation

Fiona has 30 years business experience in producing and marketing agricultural and horticultural commodities both in Australia and overseas. Before taking up the position of CEO with the When Bee Foundation, Fiona lectured in Business Management and Marketing at Marcus Oldham College in Geelong, Victoria and convened the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program and the Apple and Pear Australia Ltd Emerging Leaders Program. These experiences allowed Fiona to develop extensive networks spanning multiple rural industries. She remains actively involved in training rural leaders and facilitating rural sector innovation.

Fiona's background in organic industry development saw her travel to 12 countries as part of a Churchill Fellowship in 2003. She also travelled to UK, France and Belgium on an ISS Fellowship in 2010 to study free range pig production and welfare standards in Europe. She has led numerous farm and agribusiness tours in Australia, China

and New Zealand and has delivered papers at national and international conferences on organic farming, marketing and the global conservation of farm livestock breeds for food security.

Fiona has received numerous rural achiever awards including Victorian Farm Entrepreneur of the Year, Australian Home Based Business Award (Food and Farming) and the Delicious Heritage Food Award. Fiona is Fellow of the Williamson Community Leadership Program.



### **Mike Stephens**

Director, Meridian Agriculture

Mike is the founding Director of Meridian Agriculture (formerly MS&A, founded 1983), which is a broad based agricultural consulting company providing advice, training and services to farmers, agribusiness and government. Mike has 35 years' experience in human resource management and provides consulting advice to major agribusiness companies.

As a concurrent activity with MS&A, for fifteen years Mike was the Executive Officer of the Beef Improvement Association of Australia. In addition he was a Director of Working With People Pty Ltd and Executive Officer of The Victorian Farmers Federation Employers Association. He is Chairman of the Churchill Trust Victorian Primary Industry Selection Committee, the Chairman of Country Education Program (CEP) and a former Chairman of the Ag Institute Australia. Mike has been involved in the design, delivery and management of the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program since its commencement.

Mike, who is a Churchill Fellow, was awarded the inaugural Marcus Oldham College Excellence in Agriculture Award and is a Fellow of The Ag Institute Australia and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mike holds a Diploma of Farm Management, and a MSc. He is an accredited advisor with Family Business Australia and is currently a PhD candidate studying Family Farm Business Succession.

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**Venue:** Best Western Airport Motel and Convention Centre (33 Ardlie Street, Attwood VIC 3049)

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# Program Outline

## Welcome

Friday 21st June

7:30PM: Informal Welcome Dinner

## Day 1:

Saturday 22nd June

7:00AM: Breakfast

8:30AM: **Session 1:** Setting the scene (Mike and Fiona)

- Introduction and Objectives
- Ground Rules
- What is an Advocate
- What is an Ambassador
- Group life-cycles
- Areas of influence and concern
- Dependence, independence, interdependence

10:15AM Morning Tea

10:45AM: **Session 2:** Getting to know you (Mike and Fiona)

- Who are you?
- Where are you from?
- Which bee cause/s are you advocating for?
- What are your greatest challenges?
  - Environmental?
  - Logistics?
  - People?

12:30PM: Lunch

1:30PM: **Session 3:** Advocacy skills and making change happen (Mike)

- What are the characteristics of a good Ambassador/Advocate?
- Understanding change and how to influence
- Power, control, influence, authority and responsibility. How to handle it?

3:15PM: Afternoon Tea

3:45PM: **Session 4:** How to handle difficult people and difficult situations (Fiona)  
Managing conflict

5:30PM: Close

6:00PM: **Session 5:** Bee Influencers Dinner

A diverse panel of speakers will provide some perspectives on the environment we are operating in, the challenges and opportunities ahead and the attributes we will need to embrace them.

## Day 2:

Sunday 23rd June

7:00AM: Breakfast

8:30AM: **Session 6:** Building Effective Teams (Fiona)

10:15AM: Morning Tea

10:45AM: **Session 7:** Understanding the place of Vision & Values (Mike)

- Our own
- Others
- Working towards alignment

12:30PM: Lunch

1:30PM: **Session 8:** Conducting meetings that work (Mike)

3:15PM: Afternoon Tea

3:45PM: **Session 9:** Where to from here?

Prioritizing resources and activities that will increase the collective impact

5:30PM: Close

6:00PM: Dinner

**Session 10:** Dinner Speaker

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# Program Outline

## Day 3:

Monday 24th June

7:00AM: Breakfast

8:00AM: Check out of rooms

8:20AM: Depart Best Western Airport Motel and Convention Centre, commence bus tour.

The Bus Tour program is being finalised and will be updated as the visits are confirmed.

8:30AM: Arrive at Agriculture Victoria.

### **Agriculture Victoria - Joe Riordan, State Wide Apiary Specialist, Plants, Chemicals and Invasives Unit, Biosecurity and Agriculture Services Branch.**

Joe and his team will talk about their award winning biosecurity program that last year was responsible for the successful interception of Varroa infected honey bees at Port of Melbourne.

11:30AM: Arrive at Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

### **Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Post Entry Quarantine Services Group**

Tour of Australia's state of the art, bee importation facility. Hear about all the behind the scenes efforts to resume the safe importation of honey bee genetics into Australia.

12:10PM: Arrive Melbourne University

### **Melbourne University**

- Bee vision research project Prof Adrian Dyer (RMIT)
- Prof Jean-Pierre Scheerlink - chimney hive
- Queen pheromone research project

4:30PM: Depart Melbourne University

5:00PM: Arrive Melbourne Airport

5:15PM: Arrive Best Western Airport Motel and Convention Centre



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