WheenBeeFoundation.org.au

Bee Ambassador Program

Friday 21 June to

Monday 24 June 2019

FOOD SECURITY NEEDS BEE SECURITY

BURT'S BEES®

WHEEN BEE FOUNDATION

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.

Wheen 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, Wheen Bee Foundation

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

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

Program Leaders

Fiona Chambers

CEO, Wheen 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 Wheen 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.

Bee Ambassador Program
Friday 21 June to Monday 24 June 2019

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

Program Outline

Welcome
Friday 21st June

7:30PM: 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 and Fiona)
- 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 (MC Mike)
Industry structures – How things work & how you can work them.
- Peter McDonald (Chair AHBIC) – The National Industry framework
- Jodie Goldsworthy (President Oceania Regional Commission, APIMONDIA)- The international industry framework
- Fiona Chambers (CEO Wheen Bee Foundation)- Australia's National R&D framework

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: **Session 10:** Industry Networking Dinner
Empowering people to protect the natural world through science
Speaker: Cassandra Nichols, CEO Earthwatch Institute Australia.

Program Outline

Day 3:
Monday 24th June

6:30AM: Breakfast
7:00AM: Check out of rooms
7:30AM: Depart Best Western Airport Motel and Convention Centre, commence bus tour.
7:45AM: Arrive at Agriculture Victoria.

Visit 1: Agriculture Victoria - Joe Riordan, Senior Apiary Inspector, 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

Visit 2: Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Post Entry Quarantine Services Group

Tour of the new $379 million Post Entry Quarantine facility designed to protect the Australian agriculture industry. This will include a tour of the state of the art bee importation facility. Hear behind the scenes efforts to resume the safe importation of honey bee genetics into Australia.

Hosts:

- Dr Peter Finnin (Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture)
- James Wallner, Director, PEQ Services Group
- Michael Okines, Assistant Director, PEQ Services Group
- Kimberly Hughes, Assistant Director, PEQ Services Group
- Kate Tirchett, Assistant Director, PEQ Services Group
- Ramkrishna Kolala, Plant and Bee Manager

Guest speaker:

- David Briggs, Treasurer, AQBBA.

12:10PM: Arrive Melbourne University

Visit 3: Melbourne University

Host:

- Professor Jean- Pierre Scheerlink (Varroa Sensitive Hygiene and chimney hive

Guest Speakers:

- Bob Owen: Minimising the effects of a Varroa incursion in Australia
- Assoc Professor Adrian Dyer: How bees use their colour and pattern vision to find flowers in complex environments
- Dr Luke Holman: Queen pheromones and their effect on the behavior and physiology of workers

4:30PM: Depart Melbourne University
5:00-5:30PM: Arrive Melbourne Airport
5:30-5:45PM: Arrive Best Western Airport Motel and Convention Centre

Speakers Bio's

Peter McDonald

AHBIC, Chair

Peter McDonald is committed to creating a profitable and sustainable honey bee industry that is *capable* and *prepared.*

- *Capable* of servicing the increasing demand for pollination services and the growth in the market for quality varietal and bioactive honeys and
- *Prepared* to mitigate and manage biosecurity and other industry threats

Peter is the Chair of Australia's peak industry body, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC). As an active member of AHBIC's Executive Committee over many years, Peter has been instrumental in shaping biosecurity policy at both the state and federal levels through the National Quarantine Committee and the Victorian State Quarantine Response Team.

As a commercial beekeeper, Peter operates a family run business in Central Victoria producing bulk honey and providing pollination services. The business has a long history of family involvement through multiple generations dedicated to both beekeeping and beekeeping industry development.

Peter believes that if our industry is to be profitable, sustainable, capable and prepared, we need to harness the massive revival and interest in the value of honey bees for food security, and unite and align our enthusiastic beekeepers' efforts as a coordinated whole.

Jodie Goldsworthy

President, Oceania Regional Commission, Apimondia

Jodie Goldsworthy (BAppSci, Grad Dip Strat Mkting) is a fourth generation apiarist and Director of Beechworth Honey, one of Australia's largest independently owned specialist honey businesses.

Her interests are the environment, regional business development, and Australian agriculture and food production. She is determined to increase public awareness about the importance of bees and is a keen advocate for research into the threats to nature's most efficient pollinators.

Jodie is an executive member of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), is the current President of the Honey Packers & Marketers Association of Australia and on the Board of Directors of the Australian Food & Grocery Council. In 2015 Jodie was elected President of the Oceania Regional Commission of Apimondia – an international organisation that represents beekeepers and the honey industry – and is part of an Apimondia working group created to intensify the fight against fake honey.

Past appointments include serving as a member of the Deputy Prime Minister's Regional Women's Advisory Council, as a board member of North East Victoria Tourism, and on the Australian Government's Food Processing Industry Strategy Group.

Jodie adores honey and its versatility in food. Her successful 2009 publication Cooking, Tasting, Living Honey is a snapshot into her life living, breathing, eating and sleeping honey.

Key strengths and experience brought to the Foundation by Jodie:

- Far-reaching knowledge of the commercial honey industry in Australia
- Proven expertise in marketing to promote Australian honey
- Solid business expertise

Speakers Bio's

Cassandra Nichols

CEO, Earthwatch Institute Australia

Cassandra Nichols is the CEO of Earthwatch Institute Australia, a leading organization in citizen science and behaviour change, a Steering Committee member of the Australian Business and Biodiversity Initiative and an active ACIUCN member. Cassandra works with business, educators and community to increase knowledge in sustainability and environmental issues and to inspire action.

Working in the environmental sector now for over 13 years, Cassandra completed a Bachelor of Animal Science at Latrobe University, followed by honours at the University of Queensland. Moving to the world heritage Daintree Rainforest, Cassandra worked for James Cook University studying impacts of climate change on rainforest flora and fauna. With a growing aspiration to bridge the gap between science and the community, Cassandra joined Earthwatch, a global organization that aspires to empower people to protect the natural world through science. Since then she has been developing projects to engage corporates, teachers, students and the public in research ranging an extensive array of topics from marine debris, biodiversity surveys, impacts of climate change and to blue carbon.

Joe Riordon

Senior Apiary Inspector, Ag Victoria

Joe is a Senior Apiary Inspector with Agriculture Victoria. Included below is a photo of the Agriculture Victoria Apiary Team (left to right):

- Brett Harrison - Program Manager Program Coordinator Plant Biosecurity, Chemicals and Apiary
- Ally Driessen - Project Officer Apiary / Chemical
- Jessica Millar - Industry Officer, Bee Biosecruity Officer
- Nikki Jones - Biosecurity Officer Apiary
- Daniel Martin - Leading Apiary Officer
- Joe Riordan - Senior Apiary Inspector

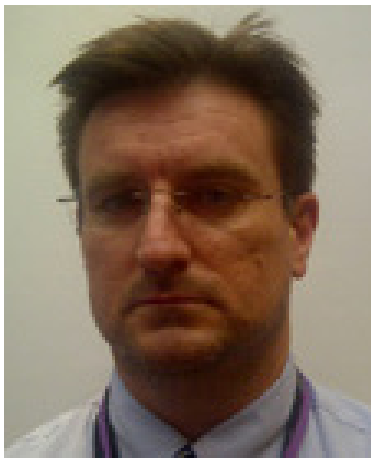
Speakers Bio's

Akosua is a Senior Scientist at Gribbles Veterinary Pathology (GVP). She has over 15 years' experience in diagnostic pathology specialising in veterinary and medical microbiology.

Akosua has an in depth knowledge of honey microbiology testing and has been assisting beekeepers and farmers with swift accurate diagnosis of American and European foulbrood disease for many years.

GVP offers a broad range of diagnostic pathology services: including histopathology, cytology, microbiology, serology, molecular biology, genetics, haematology and biochemistry for; companion and large animal, production animal, zoo and native animal, aquatic and avian animals.

Akosua Amofa
Senior Scientist, GVP



Dr Peter J Finnin is the Assistant Secretary at the Post Entry Quarantine facility for the Department of Agriculture based in Mickleham Victoria. Peter has held numerous industry leadership roles including:

- Principal Veterinary Officer role in the South East Region
- Leading the Independent Observer Section within Veterinary and Export Meat Services Group (VEMS)
- Regional Veterinary Officer working in the Live Animal Team at Spotswood Quarantine Station with Cat, Dog, Avian and Horse imports.
- Tutor in Veterinary Pathology, Melbourne University Vet School.

Peter Finnin
Assistant Secretary, PEQ Facility

Speakers Bio's

David Briggs

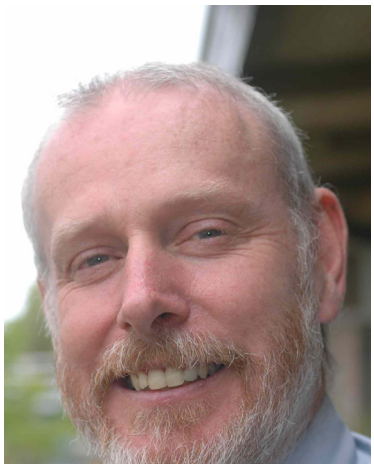
Treasurer, AQBBA

David is a third generation beekeeper based in North Eastern Victoria. Working apiaries in the north east valleys and foothills, David rears mated queen bees and queen cells for supply to industry. He also maintains two discrete populations of Italian and Caucasian breeding stock through a closed population structure maintained with artificial insemination.

David has been operating commercially since 2007, learning the craft of queen breeding from his father and a number of industry mentors. Prior to taking up beekeeping David worked in regional arts administration as an educator, project manager and regional arts development officer, travelling throughout Victoria assisting artists and community groups in the development of festivals and arts projects.

David holds a Bachelor of Arts (Visual) from the Canberra Institute of the Arts, and is a fellow of the Alpine Valleys Leadership Program.

David is currently secretary for the North Eastern Apiarists' Association and treasurer of the Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association.



Prof. Jean-Pierre Scheerlink

Immunologist, Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences - University of Melbourne

Professor Jean-Pierre Scheerlinck is an immunologist working at the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences of the University of Melbourne, where he teaches, immunology and biosecurity. Jean-Pierre is an avid hobby beekeeper managing 18 hives, including 2 teaching hives at the University High School (offering year 10 students the opportunity to experience beekeeping first-hand) and 6 hives at The University of Melbourne bee club (Bees@UniMelb). Being interested in promoting urban beekeeping he has experimented with various ways of integrating bees into the urban landscape on rooftops and in contained courtyards. He built a "chimney hive" allowing bees and humans to share garden spaces by letting them access the hive through a chimney high above the ground. He also teaches several beekeeping courses at the Collingwood Children's farm apiary and is passionate about biosecurity, bee genetics and invading bee pests.

Speakers Bio's

Assoc. Prof. Adrian Dyer
RMIT

Adrian Dyer is a visual ecologist researching how bees use their colour and pattern vision to find flowers in complex environments. His research centres on the honeybee and the Australian native sugarbag bee (T carbonaria), and in collaboration with partners in Europe he researchers bumblebees. Seminal work published in journals like Nature show how flowers evolve specific features to best attract pollinators, and how this can be affected by region and climate. Adrian is a Humboldt Fellow in Germany, and has also been awarded a La Trobe Fellowship and an Australian Research Council QEII Fellowship. Currently he is a RMIT senior research Fellow, as well as holding adjunct positions at Monash University and Melbourne University.

Robert Owen
PhD Student, University of Melbourne

Robert Owen is studying for a PhD at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne. He is investigating ways in which Australia can minimise the effect of a varroa incursion prior to the mite entering the country. This work involves computer modelling and investigating breeding varroa resistant queens.

He is the author of the book The Australian Beekeeping Handbook, published in 2015. He also once owned Bob's Beekeeping Supplies in Eltham and has kept bees for 19 years. Robert has regularly given talks on beekeeping on ABC Radio, TV, local radio stations as well publishing many articles on beekeeping, science and travel.

Speakers Bio's

Dr Luke Holman

Lecturer, School of BioSciences - University of Melbourne

Dr Luke Holman is a lecturer in the School of BioSciences at the University of Melbourne. He mostly studies the evolution and genetics of sex, sociality and communication. Dr Holman combines empirical work on insects such as Drosophila and social Hymenoptera (bees/ants/wasps) with theoretical models, 'omics, meta-analysis, and text mining. He is a handling editor for "Behavioral Ecology", and the Reviews Editor for "Journal of Evolutionary Biology". He is a big fan of open and reproducible science, and often writes detailed reports to help share his methods.

More info on the project he will be discussing can be found here: https://www.lukeholman.org/project/queen_pheromones/