



The Ekka Courier

The newspaper of the Brisbane Show Camp

Online 2022



Friday

12 August 2022

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

- * 7:30 am – 4:30 pm: Farriers & Blacksmiths Competition
- * 9 am – 5 pm: Race Around the Ekka Competition
- * 8:45 am – 12:30 pm: Dairy Goats Judging
- * 9 am – 6 pm: SwarmFarm Robotics - Agricultural Hall
- * 1:30 pm – 5 pm: Stud Beef Small Breeds Judging

The Brisbane Show Camp is a joint program of Education Queensland and the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland. Conducted by the Brisbane Urban Environmental Education Centre.
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UN-BEE-LIEVEABLE HELP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

By Taneesh and Alvin



In the Agricultural Hall, the Queensland Beekeepers Association have been informing visitors about the importance of bees and some of the problems beekeepers face.

Bees are the most prolific pollinators on Earth, pollinating close to 80 per cent of all flowering plants. They play an important role in producing a third of the food we eat and are essential to our native ecosystems.

The Australian bee industry adds four to six billion dollars a year to

the Australian economy. This includes their value to fruit and vegetable production.

A major concern for bee keepers is the parasitic Varroa Mite that mainly feeds and reproduces on bee larvae and pupae causing malformation and weakening of honey bees as well as transmitting numerous viruses.

Australia is the only major honey producing country that remains free of Varroa mites and, in June this year, Biosecurity Officers responded quickly to the detection of mites near Newcastle.

In the days that followed, 600 beehives and around six million bees were destroyed to prevent the spread to other areas.

Queensland beekeepers are fundraising to prevent Varroa mites coming into the state.

Pollution, pesticides and herbicides, which are toxic to bees, are also having a major impact on the health of bee hives.

Increasing temperatures through climate change can cause the queen bee to overheat and fail to lay eggs. In extreme



Varroa Mites

cases, the heat can cause the wax honeycombs to melt.

A decline in the number of bees would result in a decline in the

production of many fruits, vegetables and plants, and impact on our food availability.