



# Local plants providing Bee Food in Autumn

Presentation to the **Mornington  
Peninsula Beekeepers  
Association**

by

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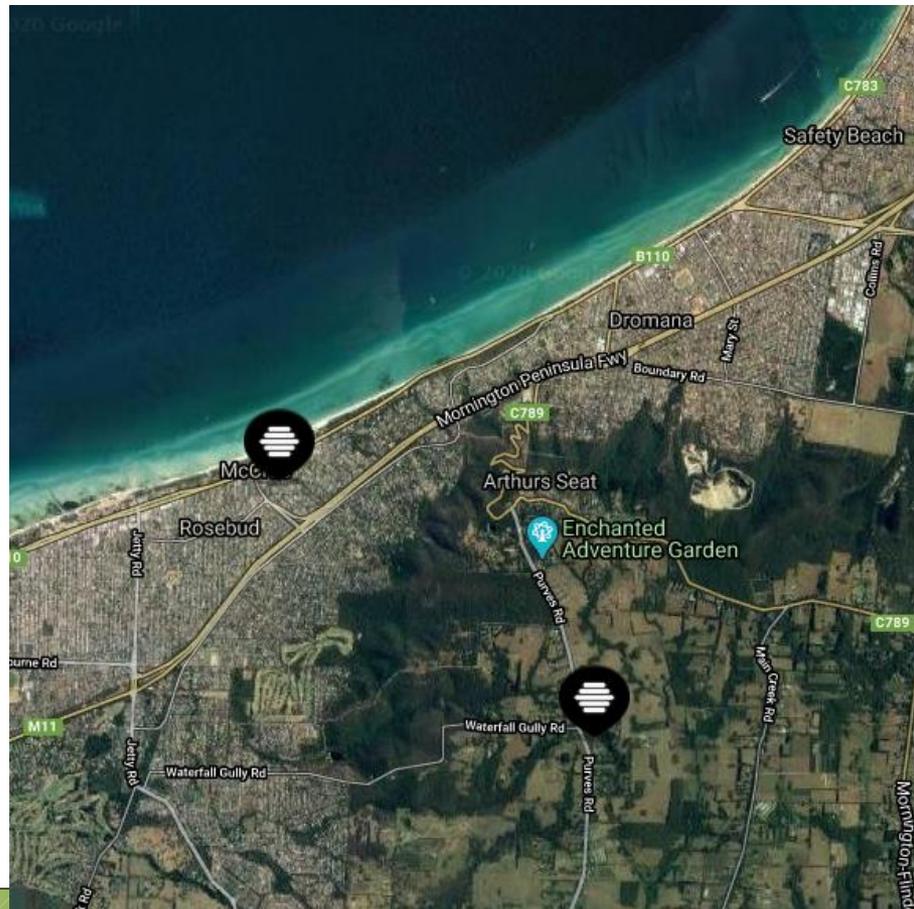
# Bees get 2 different types of payment for pollinating flowers

- Nectar – this is their energy source. It is the fuel they need to live. They store it in the form of honey which we can rob from the hive
- Pollen – this is their protein source. It is the main thing needed to grow baby bees from the eggs into adult bees.

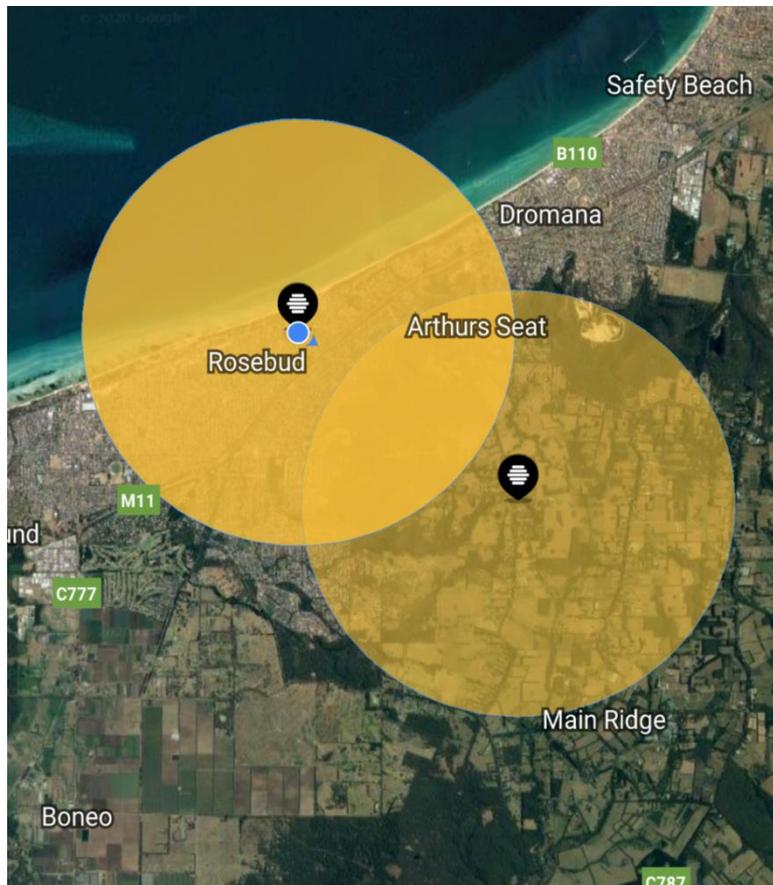
## What happens in a hive during Autumn

- At this time of year when the weather is cooling the bees will be trying to store nectar in the form of honey.
- The number of workers in the hive will be reduced as the weather will be too cool for daily foraging and fewer bees are required in the hive so the need for pollen/protein is less

# Bees forage widely...

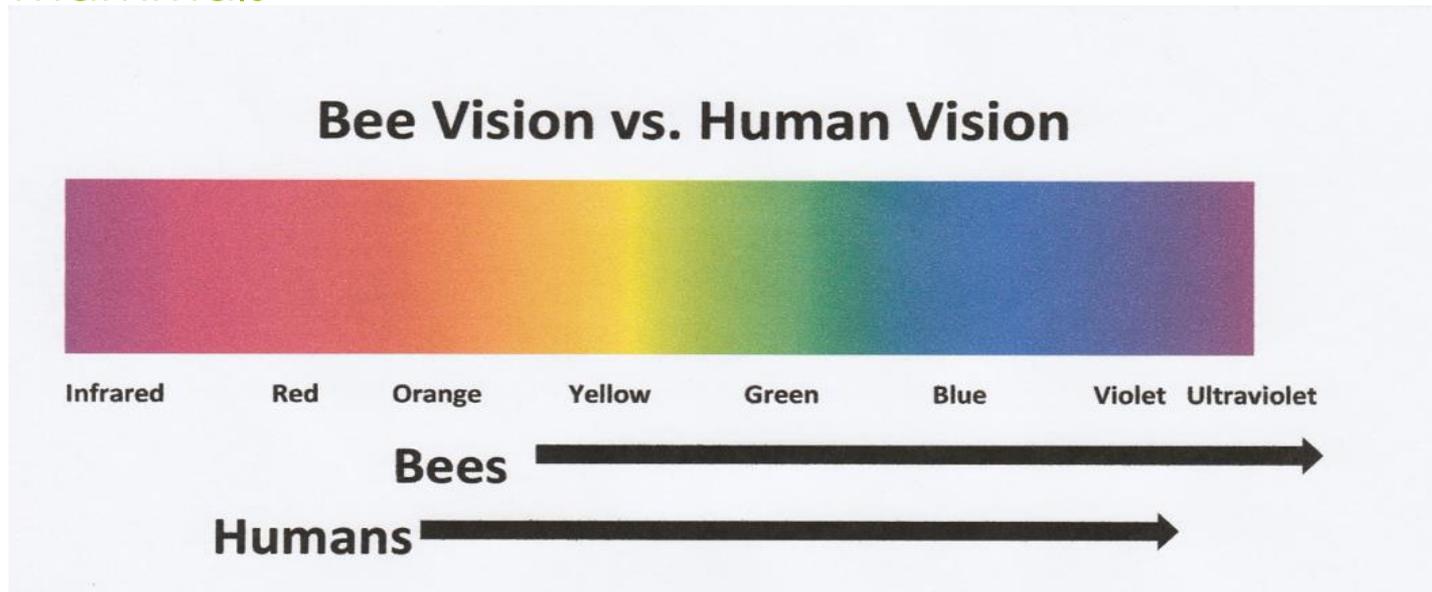


# Our two apiaries overlap but...



Bees use mostly their sense of smell and vision to find flowers.

Bees see the world very differently to Birds and mammals



Bees see a very different world to what we see.

What we see as a simple yellow flower has a whole lot going on above our visible spectrum.



Notice how with the pattern on the flower that cues are available to the insect to know where to go for the reward.



# Dandelion



## Bees see “High Frequency” colours such as Violets and Blues better

- Flowers that attract bees tend to be these colours.
- Look at the shape of the flower to see how bee friendly it is. Bee friendly flowers tend to have a landing pad for the bees to land on.
- The job of the bee from the plant's perspective is to perform pollination so the shape of the flower will also ensure the bee does this job when it visits.

# Native plants that bloom in Autumn.

There are some bee friendly native plants that tend to flower all year. An example would be *Scaevola albida* commonly sold as “Mauve Clusters”



# Autumn is the season of the local Banksias.

- Many of the “east coast” banksias, including our indigenous ones, flower during the autumn Including:
- *Banksia integrifolia*
- *Banksia marginata*
- *Banksia spinulosa*
- *Banksia ericifolia*

# Coastal Banksia – *Banksia integrifolia*



# Photos taken in our backyard on Monday



# Banksia spinulosa



# Then there are exotics which are popular in suburban gardens

- The following photographs were taken at work in Dromana of plants prepared for sale. All of these plants should be available through your local Bunnings which is where most of these plants get sold.

# Hebe 'Hebe Jeebies'



# Lavender – spot the bee



*Thryptomine saxicola*- A native that flowers for many many months from Summer into Autumn. Many cultivars. This one is “F.C. Payne’ but sold with a pink form label.



Crepe Myrtle – *Lagaestroma* sp. This is a dwarf form that only gets to about a metre



Another native from our garden –  
*Melaleuca nesophila* –the ‘Honey  
Myrtle’





# Don't forget the value of Bees in the veggie patch

- I thought I would finish with a video that my wife Judy took today in our veggie patch of bees pollinating our zucchini.
- Our veggie garden keeps us in veggies for most of the year.
- Note how the design of the flower ensures that the bee gets a back pack of pollen ready to move on and pollinate the next flower.



BeesPolinatingZucchini.mp4