



Interview with David Mason, Hawkesbury Harvest, about the Farm Gate Trail. Mason ...

[702 ABC Sydney, Sydney, Weekends \(Early\), Simon Marnie](#)

24 Jan 2015 6:47 AM

Duration: 4 mins 15 secs • ASR AUD 7,374 • NSW • Australia • Radio & TV • ID: W00060367539

Interview with David Mason, Hawkesbury Harvest, about the Farm Gate Trail. Mason states that the Australian Native Bee Symposium will be held and sponsored by the NSW Environmental Trust. He notes that speakers include Megan Halcroft, Bees Business, Martyn Robinson and Michael Batley from the Australian Museum, Dr Tanya Latty, The University of Sydney, Jenny Shanks, University of Western Sydney, and Ms Doland(*) from Aussie Bee.

Interviewees

David Mason, Hawkesbury Harvest

Also broadcast from the following 1 station

ABC Central Coast (Erina)



Environment Don't step on those bees!

[Hawkesbury Gazette, Richmond NSW, General News, Justine Doherty](#)

28 Jan 2015

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Native bee symposium

[Hawkesbury Gazette, Richmond NSW, General News](#)

28 Jan 2015

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6,821 CIRCULATION



Don't step on those bees!

Hawkesbury Gazette

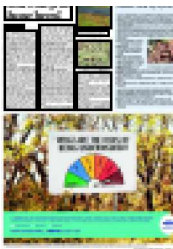
29 Jan 2015 11:54 AM

525 words • ASR AUD 1,345 • Internet Australia • ID: 366518586

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Audience

N/A UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS, N/A AV. STORY AUDIENCE



28 Jan 2015

Hawkesbury Gazette, Richmond NSW

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Environment

Don't step on those bees!

By Justine Doherty

LITTLE creatures found burrowing in a Richmond front yard could be part of a solution to threats facing Australian agriculture.

Alan Eagle of Hawkesbury Harvest wondered what all the little mounds of dirt were that appeared each September in his front yard. He said they'd been appearing each spring for the past 10 years, and would be gone six weeks later.

"I just thought they were ants pushing up a bit of dirt, you know, and I'd mow over the top of them," Mr Eagle said.

On further investigation last September, he found to his great surprise they were bees. He contacted UWS and Dr Michael Batley from the Australian Museum, who was working in the UWS apiary, told him they were ground nesting bees which had previously only been recorded on the Queensland border and in Victoria.

"They don't have a queen bee — they're solitary bees," Mr Eagle told the *Gazette*. "They just get down there and lay their eggs and the old ones go away and die. Wasps can get in there and give them a bit of grief but they said this is a strong colony and the wasps haven't taken hold there."

Dr Batley told him the species was *Leioproctus (hadrocolletes) fulvus* and that very little was known about them — they don't even know which flowers they visit.

He told Mr Eagle "even your observation that only one generation emerges per annum is not recorded in the literature".

UWS apiary manager Michael Duncan told the *Gazette* they had only become aware of the existence of the bees in Richmond through Alan Eagle's emails. Mr Eagle had also alerted the university to the fact such mounds were also across the road from his house, in the UWS grounds.

"Alan's a great example of citizen scientists," Mr Duncan said.

He explained that the discovery of the ground-nesting bee here is significant as a possible future tool for agriculture as European honey bees are under threat worldwide.

They do most of the heavy lifting of pollinating Australian crops, but the species has been devastated by the varroa mite, which hasn't made it to Australia yet, but is very close, having made it to New Zealand. When it does get into Australia, it could also devastate our populations.

"Given the size, the hairiness and density of the nesting aggregations,



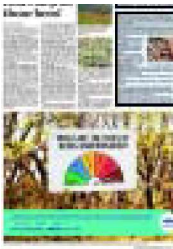
Not ant hills, bee hills: The bee mounds in the nature strip in Richmond.



I think [the ground-nesting bee] is one of the species we should think about as a possible replacement for the European honey bee," Dr Batley said.

Mr Duncan said they had good reason to believe the varroa mite wouldn't be able to attack the ground-nesting bees as it had only ever been found on *Apis* species, and the ground-nesters were a non-*Apis* species.

"Next season we'll see what they do, what they feed on. If we could find a way to make a transportable nest, they could be used in agriculture."



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Native bee symposium

THE man already known in the Hawkesbury as the good Samaritan who mows the edges of Comleroy Road, and for doing spectacular scarecrow displays for the Kurralong competition, will be a guest speaker at the upcoming Australian Native Bee Symposium at UWS Hawkesbury.

Les Dollin will demonstrate how to make nests for the delightful local blue-banded bees.

The symposium on Wednesday, February 18 is open to the public. The event is part of the Bee Aware of Your Native Bees project, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. Besides keynote speakers it will also feature demonstrations by experts on the biology and behaviour of Australian native bees:

■ **If you know what to look for ... Dr Michael Batley, Australian Museum**

■ **Findings from the Bees in Community Gardens project – Dr Tanya Latty, University of Sydney**

■ **A review of *Austroplebeia* and a look at wasp-mimic bee nests and behaviour – Dr Anne Dollin, Australian Native Bee Research Centre**

■ **Sydney's stingless bee**

***Tetragonula carbonaria* – Jenny Shanks, University of Western Sydney**

■ **How to make nest blocks for blue-banded bees – Les Dollin, Australian Native Bee Research Centre**

■ **How to re-house homeless solitary bees – Martyn Robinson, Australian Museum**

■ **The Bee Aware of Your Native Bees project – Dr Megan Halcroft, Bees Business**



A Richmond ground-nesting bee.

Lunch and morning tea will be provided. Advise special dietary requirements on registration. Registration is compulsory, by email at sustainability@uws.edu.au before February 4 or until full. Organisers advise places are very limited and are filling fast.

■ **Time: Arrive at 8.30am for a 9am start. Conclusion at 4pm.**

■ **Where: Building G1, UWS Hawkesbury campus. See map online. The campus is on the corner of Bourke Street and Londonderry Road, Richmond.**