

**ALERT FROM A CONCERNED NEIGHBOR OF YOURS**

# FATAL BEE DISEASE DETECTED IN WAMBOIN & GEARY'S GAP AREA

## AMERICAN FOULBROOD (AFB) DISEASE

AFB is the most serious bee disease in Australia and has now made its way to our own back yards and farms here in Wamboin and Geary's Gap. It is very difficult to diagnose by amateur bee keepers and if present, will eventually kill the hive(s) and spread to other hives within a few kilometres via other bees and the sharing of equipment. If found, the infected hive must be killed immediately, the equipment either burned or sent to Sydney to be radiated and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) notified within 12 hours.

We have only had our hive for 6 months and following an inspection by a professional bee keeper only yesterday, it was discovered that our hive was infected with AFB ☹️. We have noticed foreign bees hanging around our hive, so there must be other hives in the area that would almost certainly be infected. We have destroyed our hive and will start again in Spring. We have also alerted the DPI about this disease, which is an obligation we have as bee keepers under law. This is very sad and also a large financial cost – but there is no option.

If you have a bee hive (even if you only have 1) or know of anyone with a bee hive, please organise a professional bee keeper to inspect it immediately for AFB (and other diseases). Once again, it is very hard to detect as only 1 or 2 brood cells may be infected. **Also, ensure your bee keeping licence is up to date with the DPI (even if you have only 1 hive).** We need everyone to work together to eradicate this serious biosecurity risk to our bee populations – otherwise there will be no bees, no honey and no pollination – I dread to think about this.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION REFER OVER PAGE AND CONTACT**

[HTTP://WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU/ DATA/ASSETS/PDF FILE/0003/66216/AMERICAN-FOULBROOD.PDF](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66216/American-Foulbrood.pdf)

**Detection of AFB:** If a matchstick is thrust into the dead brood before the scale stage has developed, and then removed, the semi-fluid remains are drawn out in a ropy thread 3–5 cm long (Refer below). This ropy consistency is characteristic of AFB.

