

Get inspired

Day In the

Mife of a Beek

Tim Malfroy is a beekeeper from the Blue Mountains, and the pioneer of Natural Beekeeping in Australia. He also teaches beekeeping courses, builds hives, provides wild honey to restaurants, and dedicates his life to the wellbeing of the bees and the environment.

In beekeeping there is no "typical day". The schedule is dictated by flowering events, weather patterns and bee biology. Tim and wife Emma work 80-100 hours a week in bee season, from September to end of April, then work normal hours in the cooler months, bottling honey and assembling hives.

Beekeeping is a blend of animal husbandry, botany, food production and physical labour. What Tim loves most about his job is working with bees out in nature. He practises natural beekeeping – no chemicals, no intensive breeding and no sugar syrup fed to them – which allows the bees to behave as they would in the wild.

Tim works hard to be in tune with the bees, as agitated ones sting in defence, but it's inevitable that you'll be stung when you have millions of bees! Did you know that bees have five eyes?

Last summer's devastating bushfires had an enormous impact on Tim's apiaries in the Blue Mountains – and they also experienced drought, flooding, and a heat wave of 52.5 degrees, all within one season.

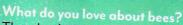
The effects of the fires will last for decades, but Tim is rebuilding the apiaries. He and Emma have been climate-change planning since they started the business 15 years ago,

and are adapting to the challenges.

Tim and Emma love that they get to do something positive together for their livelihood, and the world in general, and something they truly believe in.

MalfroysGold.com.au

Tim hand-makes their natural hives.



Queen bees can lay up to 2000 eggs a day!

That they're truly wild. They have no interest in humans, and have a whole complex world of their own.

How important are bees to us?

Very important. Roughly one third of the food we eat is pollinated by bees. Honeybees get a lot of the credit, but there are thousands of bee species responsible for pollination, as well as many other insects, birds, bats and possums.

How do you become a beekeeper?

Research the style of beekeeping you want to practise, book into a beekeeping course, join a local bee club, and read books on bee biology and botany as well as beekeeping.

How can we all help the bees?

The best thing to do is plant a garden with flowers, or shrubs and trees if you have a larger property, as that will not only help bees, but other animals too.