

NATIVE BEES:

THE BENEFITS OF POLLINATORS IN AVOCADO ORCHARDS

5 MARCH 2020

EVENT PROGRAM



NATIVE BEES & AVOCADOS

EVENT PROGRAM

- 9:00 AM *Morning Tea on Arrival, Welcome & Intro*
Hannah Rice-Hayes, Richmond Landcare
- 9:25 AM *Pollination and Native Bees*
Dr Megan Halcroft, Bees Business
- 10:30 AM *About the project: "Stingless bees as effective managed
pollinators for Australian horticulture"*
Dr Mark Hall, Western Sydney University
- 10:50 AM *The research: Macadamias and Avocados*
Claire Allison, Western Sydney University
- 11:05 AM *The research: Grower Surveys*
Sunayana Sajith, Western Sydney University
- Morning Tea- 20 mins*
- 11:40 AM *Industry group update*
Tom Silver, Avocados Australia
- 11:50 AM *Native Bees on the Orchard, Hive split*
Mike Hogan, Miloudamat Farm
- Lunch- 40 mins*
- 12:55 PM *Farm walk and insect survey*
Led by researchers
- 2:00 PM *Wrap up*

**5 MARCH
2020**



Richmond
Landcare
Inc.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Dr Megan Halcroft, Bees Business

Dr Megan Halcroft is a science communicator, specialising in native bees. She runs educational seminars and workshops to communicate the importance of native bees for biodiversity and crop pollination.

megan@beesbusiness.com.au 02 6623 3927 0414 283 941 Facebook: @beesbusiness



Dr Mark Hall, Western Sydney University

Dr Mark Hall is a postdoctoral research fellow at Western Sydney University. His current research focusses on the effectiveness of stingless bees in pollinating temperate crops and those grown under protected cropping. He is also investigating optimal hive designs for managed stingless bees, bee floral choice and how climate change will affect pollinator communities and crop pollination. He is keen to understand the ecology and behaviour of native pollinators in order to achieve conservation and pollination outcomes, particularly in collaboration with farmers, industry representatives and policy makers. He would also love to see and identify all of Australia's amazing bee fauna.

Mark.Hall@westernsydney.edu.au 0490 051 212 Twitter: @linearecology



Claire Allison, Western Sydney University

Claire Allison is a PhD student at the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment at Western Sydney University, where she is researching the potential stingless bees hold as managed pollinators in macadamia and avocado. After keeping honeybees and working with bumblebees and other wild pollinators in the UK, Claire moved to Australia to work with stingless bees and expand her knowledge of hymenopteran pollinators in agricultural ecosystems.

c.allison@westernsydney.edu.au 02 4570 1294 Twitter: @ApidClaire



Sunayana Sajith, Western Sydney University

Sunayana Sajith is a PhD student at Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment at Western Sydney University where she is studying the uptake of alternate managed pollinators in India and Australia. She is looking to interact with beekeepers and growers to understand any barriers in beekeeping and managed pollination. She is keen on documenting the growth of the Australian stingless bee industry through an online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZLX6DXL>). Her master's thesis focused on studying food security and nutrition in semi-arid regions to identify strategies to cope with climate change in Tamil Nadu, India.

S.Sajith@westernsydney.edu.au 02 4570 1294 Twitter: @SunayanaSajit

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment at Western Sydney University is heading up the Hort Innovation project “*Stingless bees as effective managed pollinators for Australian horticulture*”. The project's overall objective is to investigate and develop potential alternative, native insect pollinators for use in horticultural crops. The leading candidates are stingless bees, because they can be managed in hives, just as honey bees are, and moved into crops as required.

ABOUT MILOUDAMAT FARM

Miloudamat Organic Farm produces avocados and custard apples as well Australian native bees. Mike and Louise Hogan, purchased this 4 Ha property with degraded soil in 1998 to establish an organic avocado farm. Mike's first goal was to establish 100% ground cover with diverse species.



More recently Mike has added strategic planting of cover crops for beneficial insect habitat. Great attention is given to habitat management for beneficial insects and soil biology. Mike incorporates earthworm bed leachates and native bees into the management of the farm. The Hogans have actively managed to increase soil organic matter (now 14%). They have fine tuned their system with biological and organic farming practices.



ABOUT RICHMOND LANDCARE

Richmond Landcare Inc is the umbrella network for Landcare groups in the Richmond catchment and is managed by volunteers. RLI represents Dunecare, Rivercare, Landcare, Coastcare and farming groups on the Far North Coast of NSW. RLI is an incorporated nonprofit formed to support community Landcare groups & natural resource management projects.

0484 104 854 landcare.support@richmondlandcare.org

www.richmondlandcare.org Facebook: @RichmondLandcare

This event is organized by Richmond Landcare Inc and Western Sydney University Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment and is sponsored by Hort Innovation.



POLLINATION FUND



WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment