Beekeeping in SA

Danny Le Feuvre
Australian Bee Services
Ardrossan, SA

Australian Bee Services
More than honey

Life before bees

Bayer, Mt Gambier

- GM Canola breeding agronomist

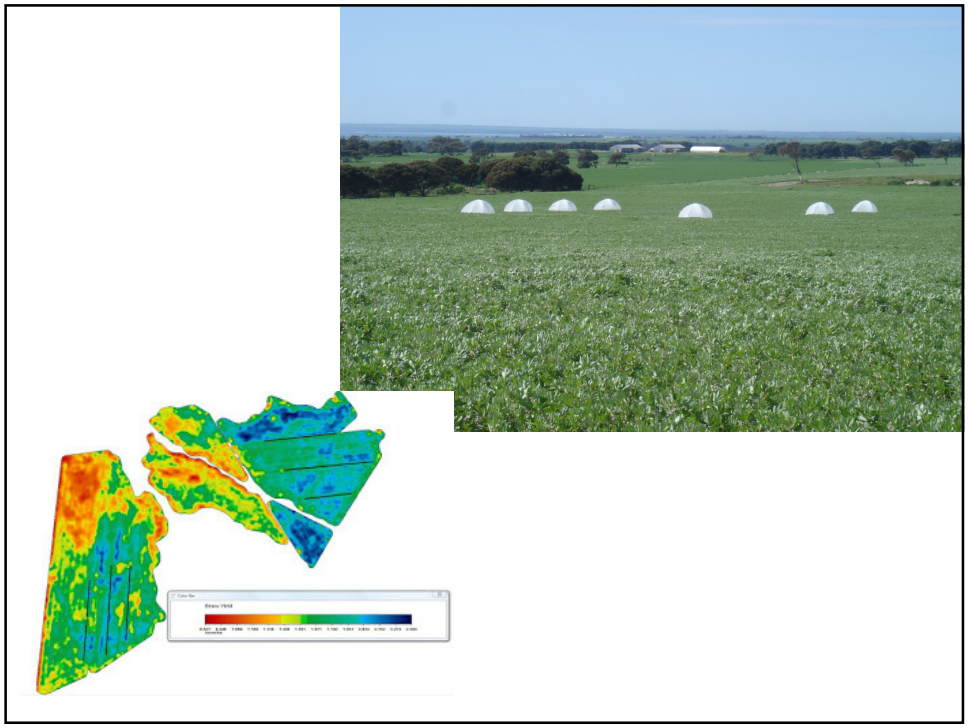
Ag Consulting Co, Ardrossan

- Research agronomist
- Farm business consultant

Why Bees

The problem – failure beans

1332
ABS



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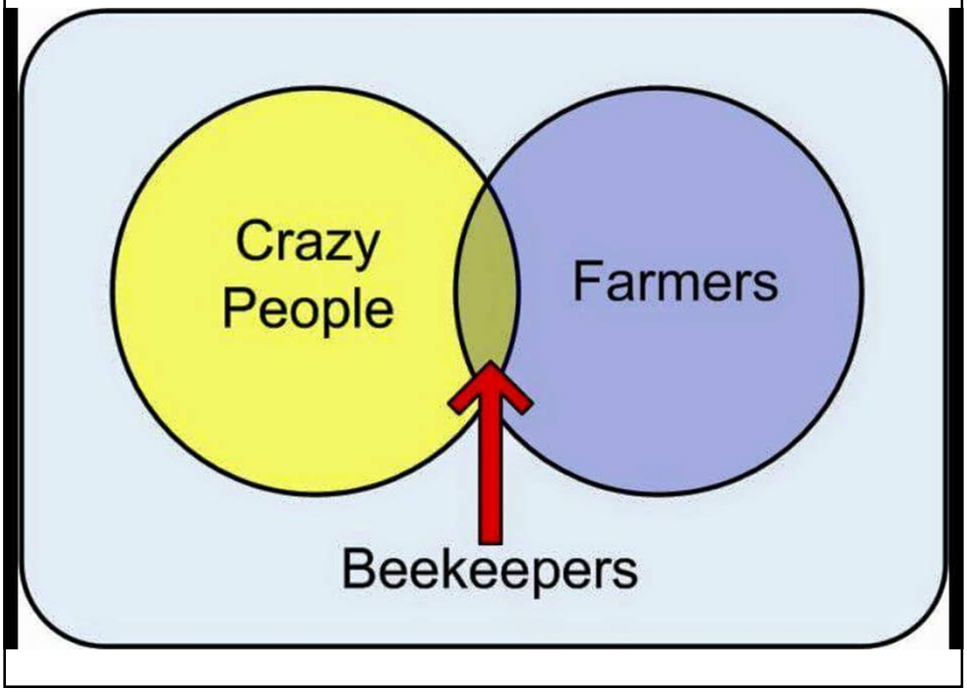
Corporate structure
Ambitious goals – 100% pollination



Established in 2007

Bought hives in late 2007	300 on the mainland 300 on Kangaroo Island
Split split split 2012'ish	2200 hives on the mainland 880 hives on KI (400 share farmed)
2018	1350 hives on the mainland 14 loads of 96 + nucs 300 hives on KI

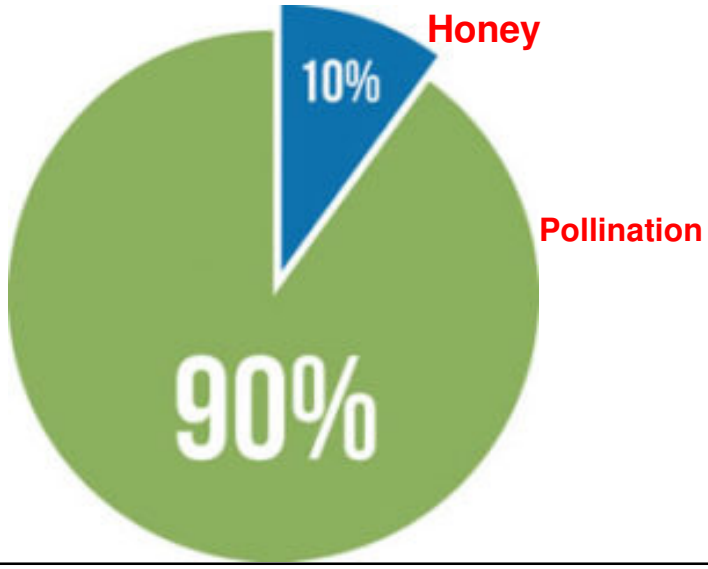
Hard Lessons Learnt

- **Processes**
  - Getting the systems right
- **Efficiency**
  - Labour / hive
  - hives worked / day
  - Moving hives
- **Staff**
  - Finding guys that give a f**

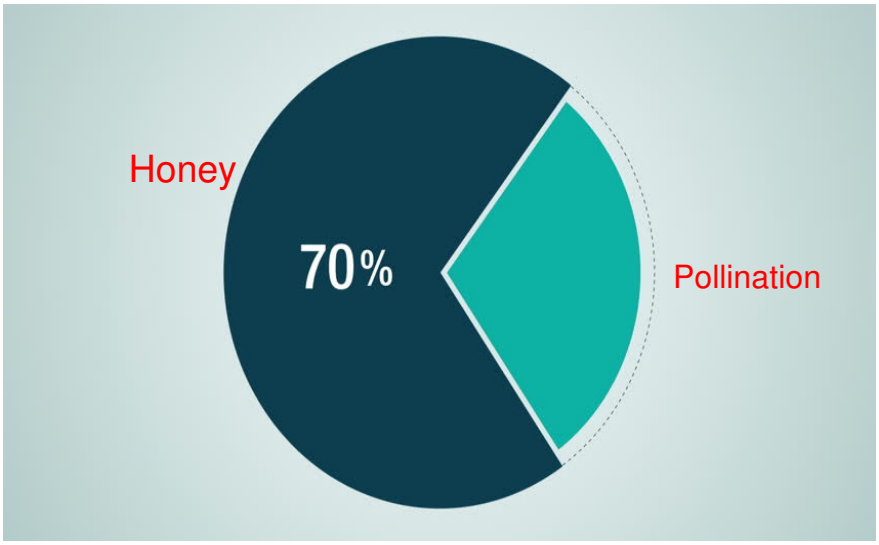
Sharpening the pencil

- 4 – 6 Seasonal staff
- Honey 1 labour unit per 400 hives
- Pollination 1 labour unit per 800-1000 hives

Our original goal



Trying to find some profits



Current balance

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We Pollinate

- Beans
- Almonds
- Apples
- Blueberries
- Cherries
- Vetch
- Clover
- Oranges
- Avocado
- Lucerne
- Canola
- Carrot seed
- Pears

Businesses current aims

- 100kg /hive equivalent
- Max 3-4 pollination jobs/hive/season
- Biggest honey crops are Citrus and Lucerne

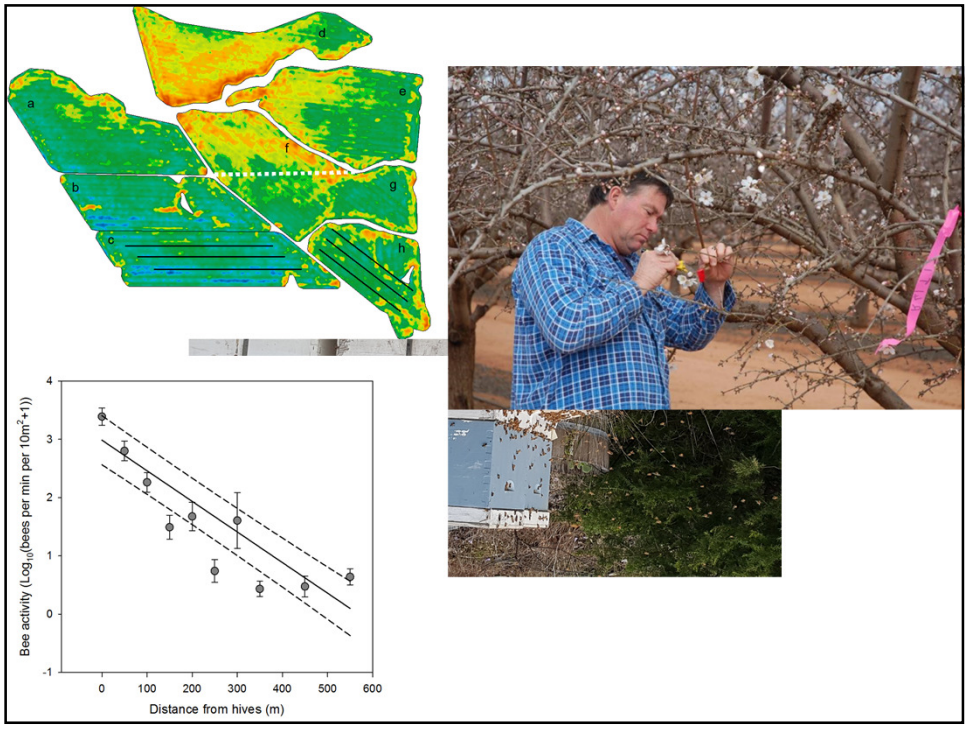
Diversification

R&D

Manuka

Packaging

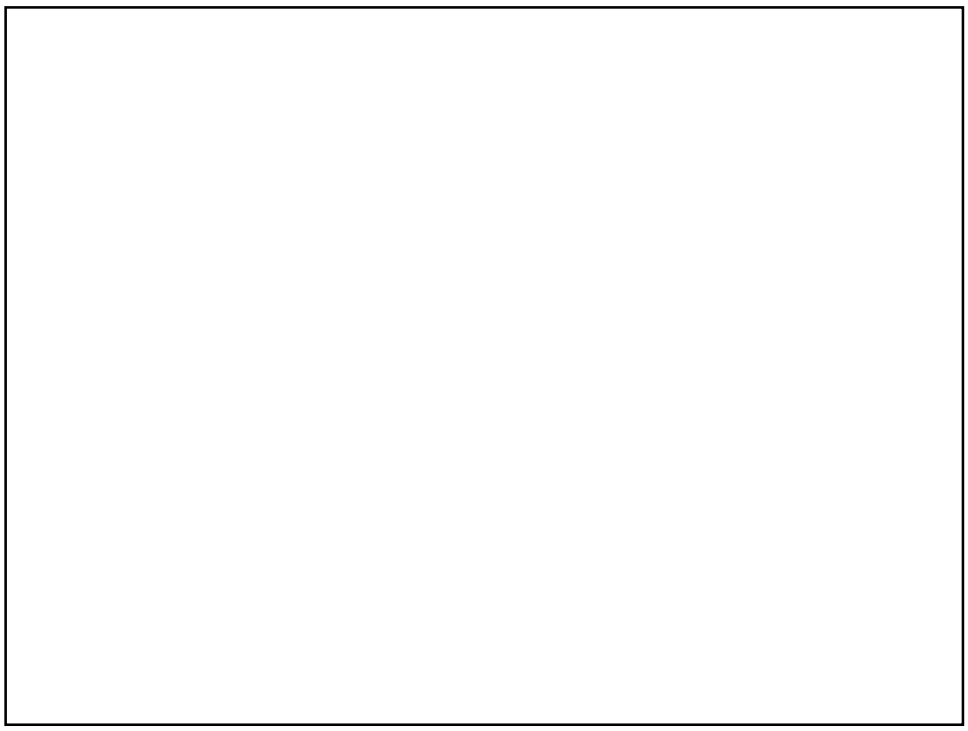
Exporting


a
b
c
d
e
f
g
h
Bee activity (Log10(bees per min per 10m2+1))
Distance from hives (m)
0
100
200
300
400
500
600
-1
0
1
2
3
4

Manuka

Thank you

Danny Le Feuvre

0409 699 980

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