

## 2018 VAA Conference- Keynote Speakers

### Professor Norberto García



Professor García teaches Apiculture at the UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DEL SUR in Bahía Blanca, Argentina.

He is a former professional beekeeper and a private technical consultant of beekeepers in Argentina.

He is now Senior Consultant of NEXCO S.A., the main Argentine honey

exporter; President of the International Honey Exporters Organization (IHEO); President of the APIMONDIA Scientific Commission of Beekeeping Economy; Member of the Board of Directors of “True Source Honey” (U.S.A); and Chairman of the APIMONDIA Working Group on Adulteration of Bee Products.

Professor García has worked intensely during recent years to create awareness on the problem of honey adulteration through many presentations in international meetings and publications in specialized journals. His main skills are Honey Quality and International Honey Market Analysis.

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### Stuart Anderson



Stuart Anderson is co-inventor of the revolutionary honey extraction system, the Flow® Hive. This invention was inspired by Stuart's son, Cedar, who said; “There must be a better way to get honey from a beehive”. Together they undertook a ten-year journey of designing and testing.

When they actually proved they could gently harvest honey without opening the beehive, they then had to somehow bring it to market. The resulting crowd funding campaign became an extraordinary story in itself.

The Flow Hive has been recognised for its unique innovation; winning the Good Design Australia Product of the Year Award 2016, the D&AD White Pencil Award for Urban Living 2016, the Fast Company World Changing Ideas Award 2017 and Silver at the World Beekeeping Awards 2017. Stuart will give a personal account of the family's story that went from invention to global crowd funding success to where the company is today.

Since its launch in 2015, the Flow Hive has inspired thousands of new beekeepers around the world with over 48,000 customers in over 139 countries, helping people to have a stronger connection with their environment.

Through Stuart's presentation, you will gain an insight into the challenging and remarkable journey of bringing the Flow Hive to the world, and the accompanying beginner beekeeping resources and beekeeping club support that has supported the growth of healthy beekeepers everywhere as well as having your Flow Hive questions answered as only Stuart can.

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### Jody Gerdts



Jody Gerdts is the principal researcher and educator at Bee Scientifics.

She is a fourth generation beekeeper and holds a Bachelors of Arts in Environmental

Education and Master's degree in Environmental Science. She is currently working on her PhD through Latrobe University studying Australian chalkbrood and hygienic behaviour.

In 2014, Jody founded the business, Bee Scientifics, to provide breeding consultation services for commercial beekeepers and best practice beekeeping training for new and experienced beekeepers emphasising cornerstones of honey bee health: pest and disease management, nutrition and stock selection.

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### Professor Boris Baer



I have used honeybees, leaf cutting ants and bumblebees to study aspects of social insect reproduction and immunity.

To do this I pursue an integrative approach, which combines biochemical technologies such as proteomics and evolutionary biology.

An important part of my work is to conduct biochemical analyses and to use their outcomes to formulate hypotheses that can be experimentally tested in the field. My idea is to help building a new field of research, which I refer to as evolutionary proteomics.

Evolutionary proteomics will not only aim to understand evolutionary processes at the protein level, but will also attempt to quantify variations in proteomic profiles and investigate their consequences for natural and sexual selection.

I am specifically interested in the proteomic mechanisms underlying self-non-self-recognition systems in honeybees and leaf-cutting ants, and will continue to address how transcriptional and translational modifications translate into protein-level mechanisms for discrimination against non-self-agents such as microbial and protozoan parasites or ejaculates of competing males during insemination.

Such knowledge will be of fundamental significance, but will also be applied in new breeding programs for honeybee stock improvement in collaboration with beekeepers in California and Western Australia.

My overall goal is to develop a scientifically-guided breeding program that selects for honeybee lineages that are tolerant against diseases and more versatile in coping with environmental stressors. The species I use for my work are all ideal model species for such work as they can be kept in the lab and the availability of techniques such as artificial insemination allow sophisticated experimental manipulations.

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## **Rhiannon Burns**

Research Assistant, World Mosquito Program (Monash University)

Rhiannon began her scientific career as a graduate of La Trobe University, majoring in both biochemistry and microbiology.

Pursuing her interests in virology, she has since been working as a research assistant for the World Mosquito Program (formerly the Eliminate Dengue Program).

Rhiannon's role within the WMP involves the creation of transinfected mosquito lines which fight diseases such as dengue fever, chikungunya and zika.

Her time spent in the Monash University insectary introduced her to the world of and honey bees, immediately becoming enamoured in the field.

She has since begun her pursuit of a PhD in the field of honey bee immunology, virology and parasitology with a specific interest in the three way interaction between the parasite *Varroa destructor*, *Apis mellifera* and the deformed wing virus.

Rhiannon has recently returned from Scotland after visiting the Bowman laboratory at the University of Aberdeen. She is hoping to introduce an Australian perspective on global honey bee health.