

# Australian Manuka Honey



*“This is the first time  
a plant has been  
domesticated and planted  
just for honey bees”*

Dr Liz Barbour  
CEO, CRC for Honey Bee Products



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science,  
Energy and Resources

**Business**

Cooperative Research  
Centres Program



**CRCHBP**  
FOR HONEY BEE PRODUCTS

## Research focus

Australian production of high-grade Manuka honey, from the healthiest bees in the world, is a major focus for the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Honey Bee Products.

Of the 80 *Leptospermum* species in Australia, within the 55 tested, 35 produce the bioactive ingredient dihydroxyacetone (DHA) in their nectar that honey bees harvest to make high methylglyoxal (MGO) Manuka honey.

The CRC for Honey Bee Products has projects in Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia to increase production and optimise the healing benefits of Australian Manuka honey.



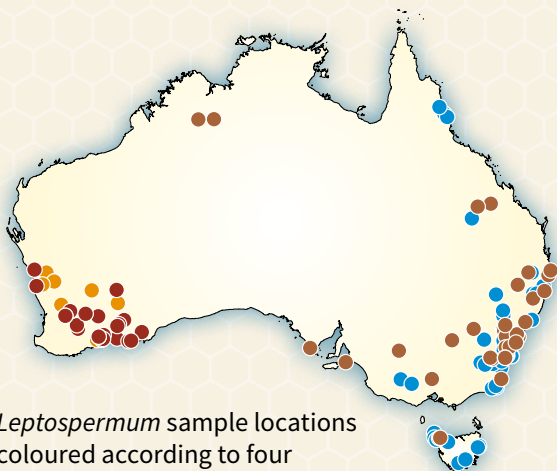
# *Leptospermum* evolutionary relationships

**DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION  
AND ATTRACTIONS**

Margaret Byrne & Rachel Binks

Land that supported *Leptospermum* in Australia was mostly cleared for agriculture. The remnants that exist demonstrate wide diversity from northern Queensland down to Tasmania and across to Western Australia. This is a rich resource with wide adaptability to site and climatic conditions.

The CRC for Honey Bee Products is investigating genetic relationships between bioactive and non-bioactive *Leptospermum* species, and the variation within species to optimise breeding output.



*Leptospermum* sample locations  
coloured according to four  
phylogenetic clades

# Manuka honey projects

## UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST



Peter Brooks

Investigating nectar chemistry and Manuka honey characterisation

## UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE



Kate Delaporte

Propagation optimisation and *Leptospermum* breeding collection for South Australia



Katja Hogendoorn

Bee health when feeding on bioactive *Leptospermum* nectar and pollen and planting with almonds

## UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Matthias Leopold

Matching *Leptospermum* species to soils for high nectar flow and carbon sequestration



## UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA



Rene Vaillancourt

Genetic control of high bioactive  
Tasmanian *Leptospermum* for honey  
farms

## UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA & TELETHON KIDS INSTITUTE



Britta Regli-von Ungern-Sternberg  
& Cornelia Locher

Investigating pain relief of Manuka and  
Marri honey after a tonsillectomy

## UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA & UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST



Patrick Finnegan & Peter Brooks

Understanding how the bioactive  
ingredient is formed in *Leptospermum*  
nectar



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