

Blue Mountains Sustainability Festival

Presenter: Fiona Hasselman

Date: 26/9/2026

Location: Dining Room, Civic Centre, Katoomba St, Katoomba

Time: 10:00 - 10:30

Topic: The world of honey bees

Presenter Bio

Fiona Hasselman, affectionately known as The Bee Lady, is a long-time beekeeper, educator, and community advocate who has spent years teaching families, schools, and gardeners how to protect and understand Australia's precious pollinators. Her work blends practical beekeeping experience with a deep passion for environmental stewardship, making her one of the region's most loved voices on bees and backyard biodiversity.

Presentation Precs

Join local beekeeper Fiona Hasselman for a fascinating look into the world of honey bees, beekeeping, and one of the biggest challenges currently facing Australian apiarists—the varroa mite.

Drawing on her experience managing two beehives at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre rooftop garden, Fiona will introduce the fundamentals of beekeeping, explain how honey is produced, and explore the essential role bees play in supporting biodiversity, healthy ecosystems, and food production.

The session will examine the current varroa mite situation, its impact on bee populations and beekeepers, and what it means for the future of pollination and food security in Australia. Participants will gain practical insights into bee health, hive management, and the challenges and rewards of keeping bees in a changing environment.

Fiona also produces local raw honey harvested from hives across the Blue Mountains, with each jar labelled according to the town from which it originates. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the unique characteristics of local honey and discover her range of boutique flavoured honeys, including chocolate, rose, hemp, smoked bacon, and hot honey.

Whether you're interested in keeping bees, supporting pollinators, or simply curious about the remarkable lives of honey bees, this workshop offers a unique opportunity to learn from one of the Blue Mountains' passionate local beekeepers. From hive to honey, discover why protecting pollinators matters to us all.