

# Next Step for Sister Hives

## Media release re: Project Funding

'Sister Hives', an exciting new beekeeping program developed by women for women, is set to expand in the next 12 months after receiving \$96,898 through the recently announced state government 'Supporting Women to Succeed' grant.

Co-Founders of the program, Anita Long and Jenni McLeod, are excited to scale up the original pilot program they launched in March this year.

"Our pilot program showed us how much interest there is for a women focused beekeeping program when it sold out within 48 hours," said Ms Long.

"There is no doubt that women want to learn how to keep bees and want to do this in a supported environment."

The grant is part of a \$2 million State Government release of funds to create a more inclusive Tasmania that empowers and enables women and girls to fully participate in Tasmania's economic, social, political and community life.

The Southern Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (STBA) is auspicing 'Sister Hives', and President, Peter Norris, could not be happier with the outcome.

"Beekeeping has been undergoing a renaissance in the past 5 years or so with the Association now at almost 300 members.

"We know that recreational and new beekeepers make up a large part of our membership and we see this grant as an opportunity to bring more women into our industry."

Like many of the successful grant recipients, the 'Sister Hives' program is a positive step forward in attracting and retaining women.

"Part of the funding allows us to employ other women – by tapping into interstate expertise, as well as supporting local female led businesses," said Ms Long.

"At the end of the 12 month program, we will be publishing a manual with the aim of assisting other beekeeping associations in Tasmania and Australia to attract and retain women."

Further details regarding the program will soon be released including how women can apply for this program.

End release

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