

R Stephens Apiarists Pty Ltd

Growth of a Family Enterprise

R Stephens Apiarists at Mole Creek was established by the late Robert Stephens in 1920, and has progressed from a pre-World War 1 hobby of a few hives, to a successful apiary business of 2,500 hives in the twenty-first century. Today, the thriving business produces approximately 35% of Tasmania's honey crop.

R Stephens Apiarists produce two varieties of Tasmanian honey:

Golden Bee Clover / Blackberry & Ground Flora Honey is gathered from the lush pastures of the North and North-West of Tasmania during December and January from clover, blackberry and ground flora. This honey is sold mostly on the local market because production rarely meets demand.

Golden Nectar Real Leatherwood Honey is a uniquely flavoured honey of the highest quality, which is only produced in Tasmania. The leatherwood tree traces back to the time of Gondwanaland. This pure honey is produced from wilderness areas, many listed as World Heritage Areas, bringing to you one of the finest quality products in the world : **Tasmanian Leatherwood Honey now Certified Organic.**

These honeys are produced and packed by *R Stephens Apiarists*, a family operated apiary based at picturesque Mole Creek. The family business, now in its fourth generation, has been producing honey for almost 100 years.

The Working Bee

The bee's home is indeed a hive of activity. Every spring selected queen bees are raised at the home base in Mole Creek, to head the industrious colonies. Records are kept every year of each hive, its honey production and the queen bee's pedigree.

Special care and attention is given to the hives during the year, especially in spring, when the hive population grows from 25,000 workers in August to an average of 100,000 in December.

The Hive

During spring and early summer the hives are situated in the North and North-West of Tasmania (see map over). In summer the hives, which are palletised, are transported to the World Heritage Area on Tasmania's West Coast, that is rich with leatherwood trees, *Eucryphia lucida*. Each summer millions of working bees gather this unique nectar from the blossom of the magnificent leatherwood tree, which only grows in these rugged rainforests. This area includes the wilderness catchment of the Franklin and Bird rivers. To access part of this heritage area, the Stephens family transport their hives and honey on the renowned (ABT) Wilderness Railway to Teepookana via Strahan.

Leatherwood Country : The Golden Harvest

The leatherwood tree thrives in the rainforests, which are entirely free of insecticides and artificial fertilisers. The tree flowers from January-March. The flower is a delicate white colour with a pale blush pink centre. The Stephens' Family apiary sites are situated on the Lyell Highway extending from Mount Arrowsmith to the Nelson River and in Kellys' Basin, Zeehan, Teepookana and the King River areas (see map).

Other apiarists also work the Murchison, Gordon and Arthur River areas as well as the Arve Valley.

R Stephens Golden Nectar Real Leatherwood Honey is the connoisseur's honey, a rich amber honey with a uniquely intense flavour. Clean pure natural honey.

From Bees to You

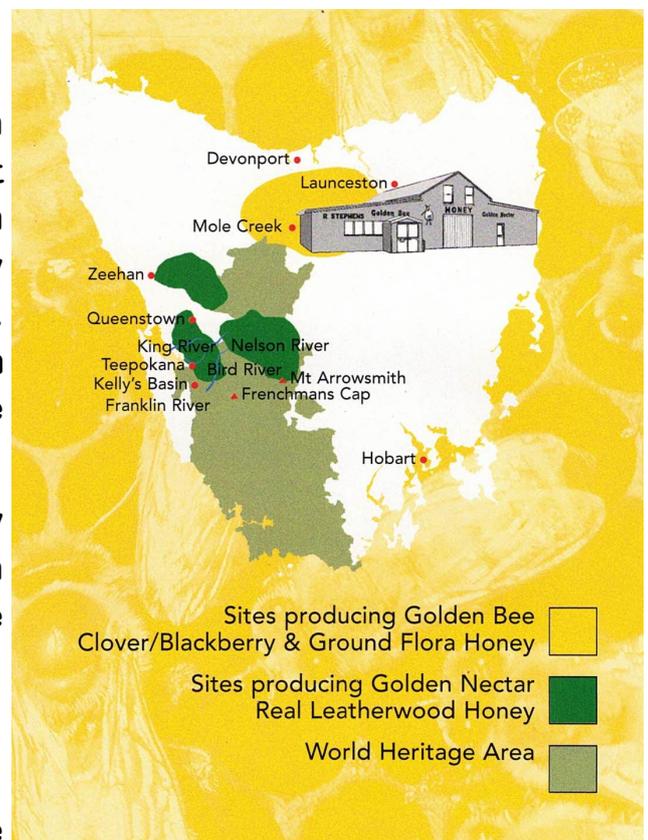
Supers or boxes of honey are removed from the hives and transported to the factory at Mole Creek. Here the honey is extracted from the comb and packed for retail sales by modern machines in hygienic conditions. Every care is taken to ensure **Nature's Own Food** reaches the honey connoisseurs of the world in perfect condition.

Quality Control is a way of life for the family operated apiary and factory, which has been accredited through the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (B'Qual Level 3).

Rising Popularity

Around the world a growing number of people are discovering for themselves the fine aromatic honey that is **Golden Nectar Real Leatherwood Honey**.

Production of this honey is limited because of climatic conditions sometimes resulting in a very short honey season.



R Stephens Tasmania Honey

For Honey Connoisseurs

