



# THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

Bimonthly newsletter for  
THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

*Better Apiculture Through Knowledge*

Volume 45 Issue 2

April/May 2008

President: Louie Kelbert  
Vice Presidents: Victor Bilokin, John Humphries  
Secretary: Dave Wilson 94842596  
Treasurer: Sheryl McIntosh  
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## The Association's Field Day 24 February 2008

Our thanks to Victor Bilokin and the Illawarra branch for organising an excellent field day well planned and organised with approximately 40 people attending.

As usual at these events there was good and interesting presentation by all speakers.

Special thanks must go to the Illawarra branch for their organisation, hospitality and terrific luncheon.

**The Association has changed the records data storage and any omissions or changes to name/address details should be emailed or mailed to Dave Wilson**

**Association Secretary (02)94842596  
drwilson@tpg.com.au  
126a Sutherland Rd Beecroft 2119**

“Please email the secretary, Dave Wilson if you are unsure of your membership status or personal insurance details.

Branch Secretaries/Membership officers should send any new member details and their ABA cheque directly to the Secretary, Dave Wilson. He will email you with a revised membership list for your club and will transfer the cheque to the ABA Treasurer.

Should any branch require a Certificate of Currency for their insurance please contact the Secretary by email and he will send you a copy as an email attachment.”

### *Honeybee News*

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Visa, MasterCard welcome

For more information contact:

The Editor

PO Box 352, Leichhardt NSW 2040

**Email: [honeybee@accsoft.com.au](mailto:honeybee@accsoft.com.au)**

A Macedonian court convicted a bear of theft and damage for stealing honey from a beekeeper who fought off the attacks with thumping 'turbo-folk' music. "I tried to distract the bear with lights and music because I heard bears are afraid of that," Zoran Kiseloski said after the year-long case of the bear v the beekeeper ended in the beekeeper's favour. "So I bought a generator, lit up the area and put on songs." The bear stayed away for a few weeks, but came back when the generator lost power. A court found the bear guilty, and since it had no owner and belonged to a protected species, ordered the state to pay \$3717 damages.  
*From Weekend Australian 15-3-08*

**The Annual General Meeting  
of your Association  
will be held on  
Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April  
hosted by  
Parramatta branch at  
James Ruse High School - ag section  
entrance via Bakers Road, Carlingford  
This will be in conjunction with the  
Inter-branch Colonel Pulling  
Competition**

## GLEANINGS from the ABA FIELD DAY

### Session 2 Dave Wilson on the Activities of the ABA

#### INFORMATION FROM THE FORUM

##### What does the ABA do?

- Coordinates 'Col. Pulling Competition'
- Organises insurance for ABA activities
- Organises insurance for personal beekeeping activities
- Produces a Newsletter 6 times per year
- Organises Field Day(s)
- Coordinates the Swarm hotline
- Supports ABA website

##### Coordinates 'Col. Pulling Competition'

- This competition was initiated in 1986 to commemorate the life of the Association's founder
- The structure of the competition was simplified and clarified in 2006

##### ■ Issues

*Only a few clubs participate*

*In those clubs only a few members participate*

##### Produces a Newsletter 6 times per year

- News letter is produced by John Humphries six times per year printed and distributed by Dave Wilson

##### ■ It provides

beekeeping info

info for branches not producing news letters

##### ■ Issues

*This is a lot of work for one person and he would welcome contributions*

*Why not have a question and answer column where questions are published with submitted answers published in a later issue*

*More classified ads*

*More up to date info from clubs*

##### Organises insurance

- ABA insurance is provided for seven clubs and as an optional extra
- Personal beekeeping insurance is provided in 3 categories
  - 1- 20 hives or
  - 20 - 50 hives or
  - 50 – 100 hives

##### Insurance details

- Insurance is purchased in blocks in December each year.

- In 2008 blocks were purchased to cover:
  - 7 clubs

Individual beekeeping:

- **170 members -hives not exceeding 20**
- **6 members - hives between 21 and 49**
- **8 members - hives between 50 and 99**

##### Are we covering our ABA Club insurance costs?

- ABA Club insurance
  - Premium \$3080
  - Capitation \$5535

but this must cover other

ABA costs as well!

Answer YES

##### Are we covering our optional member insurance costs?

cover	Insurance purchased	Insurance sold to members
1- 20 hives	170	126
21 – 49 hives	6	5
50 – 99 hives	8	2
	\$5424	\$5060

##### ■ Answer NO

##### ■ Issues?

*None – its close and we will get late joining members*

## Organises Field Day(s)

### The Hunter (Newcastle) Branch and DPI coordinate the "Total" Field day

- The ABA (Victor Bilokin) coordinates the ABA field day
- Issues?

*None raised*

### Is the membership changing?

club	07 members	08 members	lost	gained	change	% change
1	8	8	0	0	0	0
2	17	15	8	6	-2	-12
3	35	34	7	6	-1	-3
4	57	32	33	8	-25	-44
5	23	20	5	2	-3	-13
6	13	16	2	5	3	+23
7	43	27	19	3	-16	-37
8	38	37	9	8	-1	-3
<b>totals</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>-19</b>

Issue?

*Note the tremendous loss of members. A club of 57 members loses 33 and gains 8!*

*The ABA overall is 45 members down on last year.*

*This does not bode well for the future!*

*Suggestions were made about "open" days, advertising, promotion of beekeeping as a hobby, more work with schools etc.*

### Coordinates the Swarm hotline

#### The swarm hotline was introduced to centralise swarm collection.

- It has establishment costs but was initially very successful
- It is operated on the good will of a non ABA member.
- Issues?

*There is widespread discontentment with this "service". Many clubs have their own swarm patrol system in place.*

*The system now runs at a loss. Should it be a non profit web based system? Can the existing system be made to work more effectively?*

### VALE KEN PARRY

Kenneth R. Parry who died a short time ago at the age of 88 was one of the last links with the Late Colonel Guy Pulling, the founder of our Organisation, The Amateur Beekeepers' Association of N.S.W. Inc.

Ken who was made a life member of the Association in 1984 used to attend Col. Pulling's talks and demonstrations at his apiary at Turrumurra before transferring to the Illawarra Branch in 1961.

Over the years Ken Parry served as President and General Secretary of the A.B.A. of N.S.W. After joining the Illawarra Branch, Ken was elected Branch President from 1965 to 1975. He was also responsible for the Branch Apiary and Chief Instructor for over 10 years. He also represented the interests of the Illawarra Branch Members as an A.B.A. Councillor from 1966 to 1991 and beyond. His presence and wise counsel will be sadly missed.

*Bob Perkins 18/3/08*

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Northern Rivers Branch**

*President/Secretary: Merv McDonald 66283687      Treasurer: Peter Dickson-Smith 66492009*

**Illawarra Branch**

REMINDER: our meeting formats and the commencement times have changed. Committee and night meeting will be held on the same night. The times for these meetings are set out below.

Programme Monday 14th April - film night ( it's a buzz)

Sunday, 27th April - equipment repairs and maintenance

Monday 12th May - "my mistakes in beekeeping"

Sunday 25th May - winter management

*Future Meetings:* Please note the changes to our meeting formats and the commencement times. In future the committee and night meeting will be held on the same night. The times for these meetings is set out below.

*President: Bob Nicholas*

*Secretary: Geoff Henning 95284292*

*Treasurer: Joan Bell 95250552*

**Central Coast Branch**

Meetings held on 3rd Wednesday of the month commencing 7.30pm at SOHIER COMMUNITY HALL, entry off Shirley Rd., Ourimbah, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Starting time 7.30pm. All things relevant for amateur beekeepers.

New visitors are more than welcome to attend.

*President: Martin Roberts (02) 43721381*

*Secretary: Toni Mitchell (02) 43321597*

**Macarthur Beekeepers Assoc Inc**

Meetings at Jack Nash Reserve at 7:30 pm on 21/11/07.

Field days at Campbelltown apiary at 9:00 am on and 25/11/07.

*President Bruce Wallace 96056688*

*Treasurer Jean Haavasalu 46818540*

*Secretary Daryl Thorley 96064226*

**Nepean Branch Inc.**

Sunday April 13th 9.30 am. Inspection of hives and cleaning our extractor. Discuss autumn extracting and closing down.

**Note: Sunday May 18th.** (The 11th is Mothers day) 9.30am Inspect hives and adjust for problems arising.

Meetings are held at Nepean High School. Gt West. H'way, Emu Plains; a 15 minute walk from the station. Bring your suit & veil as well as your lunch.

Leave the gates as you find them please!!!

For further information ring Eddie on 4751 3941 or 0408 024 295 or e-mail: [sijnstra@tpg.com.au](mailto:sijnstra@tpg.com.au)

*President: Eddie Sijnstra (02) 4751 3941*

*Secretary: Paul Richardson (02) 4739 0381*

**Hunter Valley Branch**

Meetings held fourth Sunday in the month at Hunter Region Botanic Gardens.

Newcastle Show April 10th-13th - Roster for manning our stall: Sessions Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday morning, afternoon and evening, and Sunday morning and afternoon. Please think about availability for particular sessions.

Association AGM, Parramatta Branch: Saturday April 12th

This date clashes with Newcastle Show. John Humphries will be going to the AGM and it is hoped some other member(s) can also go. Contributions for Col Pulling Competition exhibit required.

Total Field day: May 2,3,4.

Apiarists' Meeting Nelson Bay: May 22,23,24.

a.. Wanted: Native bees for a person who wants bees to pollinate her garden but has neighbours who are prone to complain.

b.. Remember: Our colleagues of the Apiarists' Association have welcomed us to attend their Field Day on May 24th and need volunteers to assist on the day.

c.. Advanced Call: Topics for presentation/discussion for the October Total Field Day.

*President: Ted Flower (02) 49681483*

*Secretary: Jim Wright (02) 4959 3138*

**Parramatta District Branch**

Meetings held at James Ruse High School Ag Section, entrance via Bakers Road, Carlingford

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month. Field Day on following Sunday.

09 <sup>th</sup> April	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> April ABA AGM and Col Pulling Competition at JRAHS 13-Apr-08 Field Day
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May Field Day 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2008 St Ives Show
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> June Field Day

*Secretary Dave Wilson 94842596*

*Treasurer: Norm Webb*

*Extractors Claudio Natoli 9629 9621 Ray Szymanski 9869 2400*

*The Amateur Beekeeper is the newsletter for The Amateur Beekeepers' Association of New South Wales Incorporated.*

*Contributions to The Amateur Beekeeper are welcome. Material must be submitted, in writing, to the Editor before the 15<sup>th</sup> of month to be considered for inclusion in The Amateur Beekeeper the following issue or subsequent issues at the Editor's discretion. Articles published do not necessarily contain the views of the Editor unless specifically expressed and whilst every care is exercised, the Editor and/or Council of ABA (individually or corporately) do not hold themselves responsible for errors or omissions. Information contained in this publication is provided as general advice only. For application to specific circumstances, professional advice should be sought. All inserted material must be booked with the Editor and may not necessarily contain the views of the Editor and/or Council of ABA. © 1998 All material in this newsletter is copyright and cannot be reproduced in part or in full without prior written consent*