



AMATEUR

BEEKEEPER

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

Better Apiculture Through Knowledge

Volume 45 Issue 1

February/March 2008

President: Louie Kelbert
Vice Presidents: Victor Bilokin, John Humphries
Secretary: Dave Wilson 94842596
Treasurer: Sheryl McIntosh
Newsletter Editor: John Humphries
3 Kirrang Drive, Medowie, NSW 2318 (02)49828715

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
126a Sutherland St, Beecroft 2119
(02)94842596

YOUR ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL FIELD DAY

will be hosted by
the Illawarra Branch on

**SUNDAY,
24th FEBRUARY 2008**
at The Bee Garden, Eaton Street (south),
Sutherland

Program starting at 8.45am
Morning tea provided,
Lunch available as Sausage Sizzle

List of speakers and topics of discussion:

Insurance broker

Steve Kavanagh

to inform on your Association's insurance

ABA Forum

Ron Irving

*show quality candied and creamed honey
preparation*

Bruce White

All bee diseases that are relevant to Australia

Doug Somerville

Feeding your bees

**THIS IS YOUR FIELD DAY
PLEASE SUPPORT IT!**

TRAINING COURSES AT TOCAL

Queen Breeding:

28th February-2nd March 2008

Beginning in Bees:

13-14 September 2008

Are your bees buzzing in the trees?
Or are they battling beetle?

Fit BEETLTRA TRAPS

Easy cleaning and checking without opening

Phone Leo or Patricia

0422125681 or 0249975681 www.beetltra.com.au

Record information that might be useful to you as a beekeeper. Things such as swarm prevention, queen replacement and the taking off of honey with times and dates make an interesting comparison over the years. Documentation such as written records of what you do with your bees can be very useful in defending your position if there is a complaint from neighbours etc.

Honeybee News

The Journal of the NSW Apirists' Association Inc.

Published bi-monthly

Annual Subscription - \$33

Visa, MasterCard welcome

For more information contact:

The Editor

PO Box 352, Leichhardt NSW 2040

Email: honeybee@accsoft.com.au

ROYAL EASTER SHOW 20 March - 2 April

- Competition Entries need to be in before

4th February

FOR YOUR DIARY

Northern Rivers Branch

Next meeting on Sunday, 3rd February

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.

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

President Bruce Wallace 96056688

Treasurer Jean Haavasaalu 46818540

Secretary Daryl Thorley 96064226

Nepean Branch Inc.

Meetings held at Nepean High School, Gt West. H'way, Emu Plains. Bring Your Veil and white suit, if you have one!!! Please leave the gates as you find them!!!

Sunday Feb 10th 9.30 am Meeting at Nepean (Emu Plains) High School. BYO Lunch. We will spend the day trying to fix the problem with *aethina tumida* for the winter season.

Sunday March 9th. 9.30 am Meeting at Nepean (Emu Plains) High School. BYO Lunch. Inspect hives and adjust for problems arising. For further information, ring Eddie Synstra on 4751 3941 or 0408 024 295 or email 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.

Beginners' hands-on training course--contact Lloyd Bielefeld or Jim Wright.

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

2nd Wednesday of month. Field Day on following Sunday.

President: Ken Guymer (02) 9831 5469

Extractors: Bob Girdo (02) 97437555 or Richard Foote 9638560

The fees for 2008 are as follows:

ABA membership fee	to which can be added	Optional Members Individual Liability Insurance for personal beekeeping activities	
		number of hives	fee
\$40 covering ABA news sheet, ABA events and ABA Branch Liability Insurance		1 to 20	\$40
		21 to 50	\$55
		51 to 100	\$70

Current insurance cover ceased on 31st December 2007. There is no automatic cover extended into 2008 while members or clubs arrange to pay. I would encourage you to check their newsletter envelope. Hopefully details of their financial and insurance status will be printed on the lower left.

If you have any concerns please in the first instance contact your club to clarify the matter. I can be contacted by email at drwilson@tpg.com.au.

My thanks to the executives of those clubs who made determined efforts to ensure their membership was finalised before Christmas 2007. At this date (03-Jan-09) the ABA has some 140 financial members.

Dave Wilson *Secretary*

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 15th 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.

Colonel Pulling Competition Guidelines (to apply from 29-10-06)

This revision follows a detailed report from Fred Benecke following last years Colonel Pulling Competition and discussion at the ABA Executive following feedback from ABA Branches.

The intention of this revised structure is to

- (a) simplify the competition
- (b) clarify the way the different parts of the competition will be judged
- (c) encourage competition entry by more branches

The Colonel Pulling Competition is held between the member branches of the Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW. Traditionally it is held prior to the AGM each year.

Summary

Component	Mark out of
Quiz	100
Apiary products	100
Branch report	100
Branch Apiaries	100

Total 400

The only significant change involves the previously titled Branch Displays (now titled Apiary Products) which involved both judging of apiary products and a display. For many branches producing a display and transporting it to the venue for the competition proved difficult. Some members reported that the displays were the same each year. It is suggested that Branches be encouraged to bring new and innovative displays and promotional material but that they not be judged. This will leave only apiary products to be judged.

Some further changes were made at the ABA meeting held at the Tocal Field Day on 28-Oct-06. These involved:

- 1. Adding a statement about the quiz to ensure that questions relate to current beekeeping in an effort to keep the quiz relevant to newer beekeepers.*
- 2. Transferring the judging of queen bee and progeny from the Apiary products to Branch apiaries.*
- 3. In the event of a club not having an apiary allowing the apiary of a member to be judged in its place*

1. The Quiz

The quiz should consist of 20 questions with two members from each branch entering the competition. Questions should be presented in verbal form requiring a brief written response. The quiz will be open to an audience. The quiz questions and answers should be published in the following ABA journal. The quiz questions should relate to modern beekeeping.

Total 20 – scaled to a score out of 100

2. Apiary Products

Where possible the apiary products should be from the club apiary.

Liquid honey - Six 500 gm jars of honey – 2 light, 2 medium and 2 dark

Characteristic	Light honey marked out of	Medium honey marked out of	Dark honey marked out of	Total 300 - scaled to a score out of 100
Flavour	25	25	25	
Density	25	25	25	
Colour	25	25	25	
Aroma	10	10	10	
Clearness	10	10	10	
Brightness	5	5	5	

Creamed honey - Two 500 gm jars

Characteristic	Mark out of	Total 70 - scaled to a score out of 50
Evenness of grain	30	
Flavour	30	
Firmness	30	
Colour	10	

Comb honey - One full depth comb

Characteristic	Mark out of	
Fullness	15	
Colour of capping	15	

Evenness	10	Total 50 - scaled to a score out of 50
General appearance	10	

Beeswax - One block, not less than 500 gm and at least 25 mm thick

Characteristic	Mark out of	Total 50 - scaled to a score out of 50
Colour	15	
Clearness	10	
Tenacity	10	
Aroma	5	
General appearance	10	

TOTAL

Liquid honey	100	Total 250 – scaled to a Apiary Product score of 100
Creamed honey	50	
Comb honey	50	
Beeswax	50	

3. Branch Report

The Branch Report should be a summary of the activities of the branch over the year.

It should include the number of financial members, a summary of fees levied on members, the number of meetings held, the number of field days held, the average attendance at meeting and the average attendance at field days.

The report should be typed and be no more than two A4 pages in length. Photos may be included within the two pages.

Attached to the report should be the minutes of one meeting and names of the executive of the branch.

Efforts made by the club to promote beekeeping to the broader community	20
Efforts made by the club to educate and inform their members	20
Methods used by the club to inform their members of their activities	20
Identifying important issues for the Branch and planning for the future	20
General presentation and adherence to required format	20

Total 100

4. Branch apiaries

The purpose of the apiary is to show members different equipment and where possible different races of bees, to teach colony management and to give beginners experience in handling bees. As well, the extracting premises, if available should demonstrate a clean and safe working environment for the amateur beekeeper.

If the club has no apiary then the apiary of a club member will be judged.

Judging of the Branch apiaries will occur between January and the competition date each year. Branches will need to have a person available to allow the judge to gain access to the hives.

The colony	Docility	10
	Form and size of queen	20
	Strength	10
	Purity	10
The Hive	Quality	10
	Comb quality	10
	Variety of supers and frames	10
	Variety of lids, bottoms, boards and shutters	10
	Variety of queen excluders and fasteners	10
General	Hive records	10
	Safety issues	10
	Compliance with Apiaries Act	10

	Pest and disease control	10
	Variety of nucleus colonies	10

Total 150 – scaled to a score out of 100

An important day!

**THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE INTER-BRANCH COLONEL PULLING COMPETITION - See schedule above - it is not too
hard!**

SATURDAY, 12th APRIL, 2008

hosted by the PARRAMATTA BRANCH

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

Please try to be there!

ROYAL EASTER SHOW 5-18 APRIL - Competition Entries need to be in before 28th February

Buy and Sell:

- * For sale : two double extractors – plastic polypropylene drums – hand drive \$300 each – contact Philip Hazzard 4872 1499
- * Wanted to buy: 8-frame boxes + 4 frame ss extractor (motorized) – contact Petar Perosh 9734 9943 or 0407 213 391
- * For sale: 3 neglected hives located at Berry – contact Chris Coulson 4464 3443