



# THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

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

*Better Apiculture Through Knowledge*

Volume 45 Issue 3

June/July 2008

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Treasurer: Sheryl McIntosh  
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**Congratulations to all the members of the  
Parramatta branch for winning the Colonel  
Pulling competition.**

*(Named after Colonel Guy Pulling the founder of this  
organisation in 1954)*

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**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) 9484 2596  
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.”

## The Association's AGM 12 April 2008

Our thanks to all members of the Parramatta Branch  
for hosting the most important day of the  
Association's calendar.

The Annual General Meeting was attended by  
members from 5 branches. The previous committee  
once again put their hands up and were elected  
without opposition. No president was elected.  
Discussion took place as to Insurance, the hotline and  
the website. Ideas were floated for the Association to  
have a "paid for" web site which could include the  
hotline information.

It is a great many years since the Inter-branch  
Colonel Pulling competition has had four branches  
taking part and on this occasion we had the honour of  
two judges attend for our benefit. The club very  
much appreciates the support of Allen Lowe and  
Wayne Hammond. It cannot be emphasised enough  
that this competition brings the branches together and  
it is not so much about winning, but participating!  
Eddie Sijnstra did an excellent job of presenting the  
first 20 questions designed to educate - he is aiming  
for a bank of 1000 questions to last us into the future  
so if your branch would like to supply a few  
educational questions for future competition he  
would like to hear from you?

*Why did the bee fly with it's legs crossed? It was looking  
for a BPeet station!*

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***Beginning in Bees: Total Course: 13-14 September, Camden 15-16 November***

***[www.profarm.com.au](http://www.profarm.com.au)***

***Apiarist's Association Annual Conference and Field Day on 22,23,24 May 2008 at Nelsons Bay***

Grains of pollen were found on the back of a bee in the Dominican Republic. The insect was trapped in amber dropped from a tree while gathering nectar from an orchid about 20 million years ago. The fossil orchid has been dubbed *Meliorchis caribea*.

A November BBC article reported that bees were found trapped in amber from the time of the dinosaurs. Details were given at the Geological Society of America's 2004 meeting. Apparently data revealed that bees trapped in amber before an asteroid strike are nearly identical to their modern relatives, data shows. It is assumed that global temperatures fell far enough to have killed off honeybees and many of the flowering plants they lived off. Modern tropical honeybees have an optimal temperature range of 31-34C (88-93F) in order to maintain vital metabolic activities. This is also the range that is best for their food source: nectar-rich flowering plants. Amber-preserved specimens of the oldest tropical honeybee *Cretotrigona prisca* are almost indistinguishable from some of their modern counterparts.

## GLEANINGS from the ABA FIELD DAY

### FIELD DAY - Session 1

#### Steve Kavanagh Insurance Rep

ABA's Public/Products Liability insurance covers ABA/Branches/Volunteers for their respective legal liabilities arising from accidents that occur at ABA/Branch events/activities;

Members (who have elected to purchase individual insurance) are covered for their legal liability arising from beekeeping activities including the sale of bee products other than meade & royal jelly which is excluded;

In the event of an accident that is likely to resulting a claim it is a policy requirement that you inform the Insurer (via the broker) as soon as possible;

The Public/Products Liability Limit is \$20,000,000

The policy covers your legal liability NOT moral responsibility – any decision on liability will be determined by a court;

A \$2,500 claims excess applies which keeps your premiums to a minimum;

A certificate of currency for branches or members can be obtained within 24 hours of the request;

Be very wary of signing any agreement which has waiver conditions therein e.g. you are setting up a stall in a shopping centre or at a market. Any extra risk or responsibility that you assume by signing the document is NOT insured;

Remember that the Liability Sections of most, if not all Householders & Farm Package Policies specifically exclude injuries sustained by members of your family. ABA's Liability Policy has no such exclusion;

The policy covers beekeeping activities anywhere in Australia;

Any accident involving the carriage of bees via vehicle or trailer is insured by the vehicle's CTP &/or Comprehensive Insurance;

The policy does not cover claims arising from advice given;

Be wary about giving advice on any beekeeping activity – particularly swarm collection – such advice is excluded & crosses into the domain of

extermination where specific knowledge (on poisons) & licensing is required.

please note that the cover afforded by the ABA policy is subject to the policy's usual terms, conditions & exclusions.

(this summary written by Dave Wilson and confirmed by Steve Kavanagh)

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER ARE ALWAYS WELCOME - ARTICLES, IDEAS, TIP CAN ALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER MEMBERS**

### Session 3 – Creamed and Candied honey – Ron Irving

Many honeys will naturally candy or crystallise. They are good to make either candied or creamed honey. When they crystallise naturally they tend to form large crystals which makes the honey "crunchy".

Honey from Pattersons Curse is an excellent base for creamed/candied honey.

Usually these type of honeys are heated to the point where all the crystals have "dissolved". When cool some fine grained candied or creamed honey are added (about 1 part candied to 5 parts stock)

When pouring into jars the jars should be at the same temperature of the mix to prevent a frosted appearance.

Recrystallisation around the "seed" crystals provided by the added creamed honey will be encouraged by repeatedly cooling/warming the honey through 13 degrees Centigrade. A fridge with the thermostat set at this temperature will produce the appropriate temperature changes.

It is the dextrose/lebulose mix that indicates the likelihood that a honey will crystallize.

If honey that will crystallize is churned or aerated then it forms a more "spreadable" mix and is termed creamed honey.

Many people use domestic food mixers for making small amounts of creamed honey though to make larger amounts electrically powered "meat grinders"

are used. Typically the meat grinder spins at about 700 – 800 rpm.

Creamed honey after it is chained is put into a fridge to ensure that the air bubbles entrained in the honey do not separate.

#### Session 4 - Bee diseases – Bruce White

Bruce White presented two videos, complete with fast forward and a brisk commentary.

The first video was on diseases present overseas but yet to reach Australia. This video included Varroa and Tracheal mites (8 legs!). The general advice was that any sighting of mites in a hive are worth close inspection and the DPI contact.

The second video covered the standard endemic diseases grouped as bacterial, protozoan, viral and pests.

Both of these videos are available from the DPI and would be worthwhile showing at a club meeting.

The group then went outside where Bruce in his own special style opened a hive down to the brood box to illustrate the way a hive should be inspected for disease.

#### Session 5 – Feeding Bees - Doug Somerville

##### Why feed

Lack of pollen, lack of nectar, lack of stored honey. Combs should be checked, hive weighed and incoming bees checked.

##### Response Required

Stimulate – promote breeding or queen rearing

Keep alive – maintain population, prevent starvation

##### Stimulate

Fresh nectar and pollen ideal

Sugar syrup (small quantities often) will promote pollen gathering

Pollen supplement (mixed success)

##### Keep alive

Winter or drought

Large quantities of sugar 5- 10 liters plus

Dry sugar OK

There are risks associated with feeding honey

##### Protein/Pollen supplement

Expensive

Colony requires approx 50 kg pollen per year

Success mixed

##### Sugar Supplement

Dry gives least stimulation

Saturated (2 sugar: 1 water) less stimulation

1 sugar: 1 water gives good stimulation

Container must be clean and kept clean less fermentation occur

##### Sugar

Stimulate 1 liter syrup twice per week

Stores 5 – 10 liters as required

The sugar syrup must be taken up

Toss out unused syrup

Only mix what is required for immediate use

##### Bulk Feeders

Protect from livestock

Place close to apiary

Provide some floats eg straw

They promote significant flight activity

Avoid cold and rain periods

##### Individual Feeders

Front feeders, top feeders and frame feeders used.

If uptake varies between hives check queen status or presence of diseases

## Honeybee News

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Visa, MasterCard welcome

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The Editor

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#### INTER BRANCH COLONEL PULLING COMPETITION 2008

	ILLAWARRA	C.COAST	HUNTER	PARRAMATTA
APIARY	64	52	74	61
PRODUCTS	78.4	66.3	67.3	77.3
REPORT	70	72	78	74
QUIZ	65	45	30	80
TOTAL	277.4	235.3	249.3	292.3
	2nd	4th	3rd	1st
MEMBERS	37	19	34	40
H/Cap SCORE	750	1238	733	731
	2nd	1st	3rd	4th

Handicap score is points per person in club multiplied by 100. i.e. total points divided by club membership multiplied by 100. This has no official standing - just illustrates an interesting calculation - maybe we need a handicap award as well?

**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.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June A DVD "Silence of the Bees"

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June Preparing for winter and constructing new frames

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July Guest speaker Eric Whitby Bee diseases, his work with Sydney Wildlife World, pests and diseases off shore, port surveillance and Bee Colony collapse

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July discussion of the trees within Council Park land behind the Bee Garden

*President: Ken Simpson Treasurer: Ken Mooney Secretary: Geoff Henning Minutes Secretary: Rebecca Thistlewaite*

**Central Coast Branch**

**NO MEETING IN JULY**

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 18/06/08 and 16/07/08.

Field days at Campbelltown apiary at 9:00 am on 22/06/08 and 20/07/08.

*President: Peter Thorley 96056688*

*Treasurer: Jean Haavasalu 46818540*

*Secretary: Barry Austen 48 851 705*

**Nepean Branch Inc.**

*Vale Bruce Christie.*

*He left us on Wednesday 14-05-08. He was a man of few words, but great action. Always ready to help organizing the next meeting. Bring his truck with any tools we might need. He gained insight in the art of beekeeping at a faster rate than any of us due to his intense observance. We will miss him dearly.*

Sunday June 8th 9.30 am. Inspection of hives and further work on our extractor. Work on severe hive beetle problem. Pack bees where necessary

Sunday July 13th. 9.30 am Inspect hives and adjust for problems arising. General tuition and discussions.

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 info ring Eddie on 47513941 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.

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

Ordinary meeting June 22nd

July Social meeting to be arranged.

"At the Tocal Field Days May 2nd-4th our stall was well attended and we received many inquiries from interested potential beekeepers. The school day was very successful with organised attendance by primary school classes. High school students from James Ruse Agricultural High School were interested visitors."

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

*President: Ted Flower (02) 49681483*

*Secretary: Jim Wright (02) 4959 3138*

**Parramatta District Branch**

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

Meetings held at James Ruse High School Ag Section, Carlingford

Meetings in Agriculture classroom – field days in club apiary – entrance via Baker St

Wednesday meetings 7:30 pm start

11th June Expert panel – here is how we do it                      Sunday 15th June Field Day

09th July Xmas in July – Carlingford Bowling Club                      Sunday 13th July 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 to 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*