

Colonel Pulling Competition Guidelines

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.

The intention of this structure is to

- simplify the competition
- clarify the way the different parts of the competition will be judged
- encourage competition entry by more branches

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:

- 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.*
- Transferring the judging of queen bee and progeny from the Apiary products to Branch apiaries.*
- 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	Total 50 - scaled to a score out of 50
Fullness	15	
Colour of capping	15	
Evenness	10	
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	50
	Form and size of queen	20	
	Strength	10	
	Purity	10	
The Hive	Quality	10	50
	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	50
	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! Please try to attend!

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

SUNDAY, 19th APRIL, 2009

Apiaries Judge – Nick Annand DPI Quiz - Eddie Sjinstra Branch Entries Judge – Local Queen Breeder Col Wilson of Hunter Valley Apiaries

hosted by the HUNTER BRANCH

at Hunter Region Botanic Gardens on Pacific Highway between Hexham and Raymond Terrace

**Inter-Branch Colonel Pulling Event Look upon this event as participation' rather than 'competition'
and start preparing now!**



THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

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

Better Apiculture Through Knowledge

Volume 46 Issue 1

www.beekeepers.asn.au

February/March 2009

Vice Presidents: Victor Bilokin, John Humphries
Secretary: Dave Wilson 94842596
Treasurer: Sheryl McIntosh
Newsletter Editor: John Humphries

From the Secretary

Membership

My thanks to the Club Treasurers/Membership Officers for their efforts in extracting membership and insurance dues from their members and dispatching it to me in time to make the ABA insurance deadline in December.

Both ABA and the optional personal beekeeping insurance is in place for financial members for 2009.

This news letter is mailed to both our new members for 2009 and all who were members in 2008. A check on the envelope will indicate if the ABA records show you as a financial member for the year. If you are financial your ABA website user name and password are also printed on the envelope. This will allow you to access the ABA website to check your insurance status and to adjust/set your swarm collecting details.

Over 2008 we gained some 23 members to reach 257 members in December. At the start of 2009 we had 215 members who availed them selves of the 'early bird' special. While there was a loss of members at the end of the year hopefully this will be more that made up over the coming year.

The Web site

The ABA website has promotion pages up for four of our seven clubs. I urgently need basic information and pictures from the remaining clubs.

The site has ten active swarm collectors listed covering some 100 post codes. However all bar one of these collectors are members of the Parramatta Branch and so many areas are uncovered by this service. If you would like to use the website to notify the public that you are available to collect swarms and you are unsure about entering your information please contact me and I will lend a hand. Remember this system allows you to temporarily remove your details from the view of the public with the "click" of your computer mouse.

Why not register as a swarm collector in your own post code?

Members of the public have searched for beekeepers to collect swarms some 220 times since the system commenced while over 120 ABA members have checked their details and or set swarm collecting details in that time. I know of several swarms that have been collected following contact via the website.

Our website is now listed with the DPI as a contact point for amateur beekeeping and in future will provide other services to members. The fate of the old 'swarm hot line' will be determined at the ABA AGM later this year.

Dave Wilson drwilson@tpg.com.au (preferred) or 02 9484 2596 (desperate)

YOUR ASSOCIATION FIELD DAY WILL BE HELD

**on SATURDAY, 7th FEBRUARY 2009
At the Parramatta branch's venue
at James Ruse High School – Ag Section,
Baker Street, Carlingford**

Remember that the ABA Field Day will be held in the Agriculture Section of James Ruse High School at Carlingford on 07-Feb-09 with tea and coffee at 8:30am with the first session commencing at 9 am.

The emphasis will be on providing information for less experienced bee keepers.

There will be sessions on:

Opening a hive and locating the existing queen.

Requeening and hive splitting will be demonstrated by

Bruce White.

Doug Somerville will present a session on locating appropriate sites for bees in both urban and the rural situation.

Assembly of hives and frames will be demonstrated by

Peter Annetts.

Bee swarms and wild bee colonies. Collecting swarms along with some gear that you can use will be discussed by Alex Taylor.

Processing the left over cappings to extract wax and honey and candle making with a practical demonstration will be presented by Dave Wilson.

The fees for 2009 are as follows:

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

Current insurance cover ceased on 31st December 2008.

There is no automatic cover extended into 2009 while members or clubs arrange to pay.

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.

February 9th - night meeting, 7pm start - questions and answers. Swarm Patrol post codes for website to be confirmed.

February 23rd (4th Sunday) Field day - 10am start. Clean up garden and honey extraction.

March 9th - night meeting - 7pm start A.G.M. Guest speaker Peter Oxley. Subject - Honey bee genetics.

President: Ken Simpson (02)95214404 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

THE ASSOCIATION'S FINANCIAL YEAR FINISHES ON THE 31st DECEMBER

Macarthur Beekeepers Assoc Inc

Meetings at Jack Nash reserve at 7:30 pm

Field days at Campbelltown apiary at 9:00 am

President: Bruce Wallis 9605 6688

Treasurer: Jean Havvasdu 46818540

Secretary: Barry Austen 48 851 705

Nepean Branch Inc.

Sunday Feb 8th 9.30 am Meeting at Nepean (Emu Plains) Highschool. We may have to do some more extracting. Bring your suit, veil and your lunch. We will set some time apart for tutoring and to discuss some technicalities.

Sunday Mar 8th. 9.30 am Meeting at Nepean (Emu Plains) Highschool. BYO Lunch, suit & veil. Inspect hives and adjust as necessary, along with technical tutoring discussions. Meetings are held at

For further info ring Eddie on 47513941 or 0408 024 295 or e-mail: sjnstra@tpg.com.au

President: Eddie Sjnsitra (02) 4751 3941

Secretary: Paul Richardson (02) 4739 0381

Hunter Valley Branch

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

President: Ted Flower (02) 49681483

Secretary: Jim Wright (02) 4959 3138

Parramatta District Branch

2nd 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

President: Peter Thorley

Secretary Dave Wilson 94842596

Treasurer: Norm Webb

Extractors Claudio Natoli 9629 9621 Ray Szymanski 9869 2400

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

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 to inclusion in The Amateur Beekeeper the following issue or subsequent issues at the Editor's discretion. Articles published do no 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.