



THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

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

Better Apiculture Through Knowledge

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www.beekeepers.asn.au

October/November 2011

Vice Presidents: Doug Purdie, John Humphries
Secretary: Dave Wilson 94842596
Treasurer: Sheryl McIntosh
Newsletter Editor: John Humphries 49828715
Next deadline for material to be included in this newsletter: Mon, 21st Nov



Northern Rivers - This swarm collected by one of our members, Eddie Handford. Estimated length was about 4 foot, it's the biggest that any of us have seen !!

**A short meeting of your
Association's Council will take
place at the close of the field day at
Tocal on 29th October**

TOCAL BEEKEEPERS' FIELD DAY Saturday, October 29th 2011

PROGRAMME

- 9am:
Welcome and outline of programme *Bob Gulliford*
9.15-10.30:
Field Demonstration for Beginners, Opening
beehives *Nick Annand and Doug Somerville*
10.30-11:
Morning Tea (Bring your own)
11-11.30:
Prevention of Back Injury *Doug Somerville*
11.30-12:
Prevention of Swarming *Col Wilson*
12.30-1pm:
Asian Bee Incursion Update *Local Beekeeper(s)
who went to Cairns as volunteers assisted by DPI*
12.30-1.30
Lunch (Sausage sizzle type lunch will be available
for purchase *courtesy of Tocal Student Asso.*)
1.30-2.30:
Field Demonstration - Hiving a Swarm ...
*Combined presentation by Amateur Beekeepers
and Apiarists' Association*
2.30-3.15:
American Foul Brood; DVD Demonstration
Doug Somerville
3.15-3.45:
From Small Beekeeping to Professional
Members of Apiarists' Association
3.45-4pm:
Question and Answer

Additional Displays for Covered area outside Auditorium:

Types of Honey.....*Combined ABA
and Apiarists' Association*

Starter Kit *Penders*

ASIAN BEE INCURSION IN AROUND CAIRNS

www.securefoodssavebees.com

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Federal Council of Australian Apiarists Associations is now coordinating volunteers to assist with efforts to contain the Asian Bee in Cairns in the hope that we will again be able to ask the question "is the bee eradicable?" as we move through the containment program.

Who is needed?

Those with knowledge of keeping bees, commercial beekeepers, amateur beekeepers, retired beekeepers and their partners.

Can you help?

If you are willing to donate some of your time in Cairns there are a range of tasks that can be matched to your skills. Tasks being undertaken include working with Biosecurity Qld officers to find Asian bee nests, sweep netting to determine where they are, talking to the public, preparing bait stations and many other important tasks required to support the program staff.

Tasks are being matched to the skills and experience of the volunteers. Training and support is provided.

Time needed?

Minimum one week, up to a few weeks. Due to the commercial beekeeping season commencing one week blocks are currently being organised.

If you are available for more than a week your skills can be accommodated for longer periods. As now is a busy period we recognise commercial beekeepers will have difficulty getting away for longer periods so any help from the amateur sector is greatly appreciated and valued.

Costs?

Volunteers are covering their own airfares and meals. The FCAAA are covering the cost of basic accommodation in shared rooms of up to four people.

We have set up a booking system for airfares and Billy Weiss can advise how this works.

What's in it for you?

Volunteers to date have found the exercise really useful in gaining a first hand insight into the problem in Cairns and have returned with a resolve to be as active as possible in preventing this pest from establishing itself and impacting on the wider industry.

By volunteering you will feel like you have done what you can to protect your future and the future of our industry and you will build contacts and friendships with other beekeepers.

If you can help please contact:

Billy Weiss – President 0428 669 578 or by email beeweiss@gmail.com

Vale Alexander John Taylor

Passed away Monday 29th August 2011

Alex died on 29th August aged 74 years. He leaves his wife Hilary and two sons.

Alex was a President of the North Shore Amateur Beekeeping group. He organised the dinner that celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the ABA.

Following a split in that group, that ABA branch foundered and Alex and his fellow members joined the Parramatta group.

He readily accepted the role of Apiary Officer and was widely regarded for his beekeeping knowledge and his generosity in helping new members. Until ill health limited his activities he rarely missed a field day or a meeting. A person of great integrity and honesty Alex is a great loss to the club as we lose yet another experienced and capable beekeeper.

He was an engineer by profession and took up beekeeping upon his retirement. In his younger days he was an outstanding cricketer and played more first class innings than many of the known cricketers of today. He had a great interest in fishing and was keen off shore fisherman.

He will be remembered with great fondness by the Parramatta group as a knowledgeable beekeeper with a kind and generous nature.

Congratulations to the members of the North Coast Branch for initiating the formation of a new branch. Ten people are needed to create a branch under the ABA banner.

ILLAWARRA BRANCH STARTS FOOD HANDLING COURSES

Illawarra Branch are planning the second of their food handling courses for Saturday, 3rd December - 1-5pm ... cost \$50 to non members of ABA, \$45 to members, (refund of \$5 on the day at Sutherland beekeepers.

Content tailored for beekeepers but covers the syllabus of the NSW wide course which is needed to get the certificate of food handling.

On completion a certificate is issued by the accredited trainer, to cover standard 3.2.2 (NSW law) plus others so we can now sell honey and register with NSW government food authority and enables sales at up to 20 outlets.

There are a maximum numbers of 12 per course - it can be booked and paid for though Illawarra website.

Illawarra club member Doug Purdie has seen growing enquiries from beekeepers in the Inner City areas for a city based bee club, he works with another beekeeper Vicky Brown to place hives in Urban areas including city rooftops and community gardens across the inner city, this venture "The Urban Beehive" was recently a finalist in the City of Sydney small business awards and as a result of this publicity and various other media reports has seen many enquiries about a city club to serve the inner city and East regions that may grow into branch in the future.

Australia's Honeybee News

The Journal of the NSW Apiarists' Association Inc.

"The Voice of the Beekeeper"

Published bi-monthly
Annual Subscription - \$33
Visa, MasterCard welcome

For more information contact:

The Editor

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Email: honeybee@accsoft.com.au

The objects of your Association as per our constitution are:

- (i) to increase the knowledge of bees and bee culture.*
- (ii) to improve the standard of beekeeping among amateur beekeepers and to encourage the formation of branches.*
- (iii) to assist in the study of subjects allied and relevant to apiculture.*
- (iv) to foster intelligent observation and good practical handling of bees.*
- (v) to afford advice and assistance to beginners.*
- (vi) to arrange lectures, discussion, demonstrations and field days for the benefit of members.*
- (vii) to assist members in the acquisition of suitable apicultural literature and equipment by purchase or loan from the Association.*
- (viii) to seek out and assist people who are interested and qualified to carry out research work on bees and bee culture, and to arrange for assistance in the recognition, control and treatment of diseases affecting bees.*
- (ix) to protect the honey and pollen flora and the interests of beekeepers.*
- (xi) to encourage the observance of the Apiaries Act and Regulations.*

APITHOR

SMALL HIVE BEETLE HARBOURAGE

The small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) is an introduced pest, first discovered in Richmond, north west of Sydney, in 2002. After an extensive inspection and surveillance program it was concluded that the pest was not eradicable and it has therefore been declared endemic. Normally a scavenger of bee hives in its native Africa, it has proven to cause enormous losses to the Australian bee industry through hive collapse or bees absconding.

The APITHOR SMALL HIVE BEETLE HARBOURAGE has proved to be both safe and highly effective in controlling beetles in the hive. APITHOR takes advantages of the beetle's behavioural vulnerabilities, while remaining totally safe in use to bees and bee products.

The small hive beetle is a shy insect that harbours in cracks and crevices in preference to remaining in the open. In the hive it is subject to harassment by bees so this habit is exploited by providing a 'safe haven' in a lethal harbourage. A two-piece rigid plastic protective housing prevents operator or bee contact with the insecticidal component inside the Harbourage. The size differential prevents bees from entering whereas beetles enter easily.

A honey residue trial has demonstrated that use of APITHOR results in a mean total residue in honey of less than 1ppb. Efficacy have shown that a single Harbourage on the bottom board of infested hives achieves an 80–90% reduction in the number of live adult beetles within six weeks.

The APITHOR Small Hive Beetle Harbourage is designed as a single use, disposable device that can be easily inserted and removed from standard hives without the need to open or dismantle them. Some of the key attributes of the Harbourage are:

- Two-piece rigid plastic design
- Tamperproof
- Precise size openings that allow beetles in but exclude bees
- Insecticidal insert set back from openings to prevent contact by bees' mouthparts
- Compatible with silicone adhesives
- Disposable in household garbage
- No user access to the insecticide treated insert
- Long shelf-life and time in-service.

The user places APITHOR onto the hive bottom board so that it sits flat. A thin wire (supplied) can be attached to the Harbourage to enable removal from the hive without opening the hive or removing frames.

The APITHOR Small Hive Beetle Harbourage is available in a pack of 20 Harbourages with each Harbourage costing just \$4-95. Prices are exclusive of GST. For more details visit www.apithor.com.au.

'Parramatta branch of the ABA has formed a link with the Warringah Manly Permaculture group to support them in establishing some beehives for their members. Several members of that group are members of the Parramatta club. Norm Webb of the Parramatta group has presented several talks to the members and recently coordinated a field day at Elanora Heights. Maybe this interested group will grow into a new ABA branch to serve the Northern Beaches area of Sydney.'

FOR YOUR DIARY

Central Coast Branch

Meetings held on 3rd Wednesday of the month commencing 7.30pm at SOHIER COMMUNITY HALL, entry off Shirley Rd., Ourimbah. 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

Northern Rivers Branch

Our meetings/field days are held on the last Sunday of the month. 10.00am start.

President: Bill Ferris 6622 2335 Secretary: Shirley Ashman Treasurer: Peter Dickson-Smith 66492009

The Illawarra Beekeepers' Association Inc

OCTOBER 2011

Monday 10th (7pm) Night Meeting – Swarm Collecting talks by Ian Phillips and Michael Harvey PLUS members can share their experiences with those present.

Sunday 30th (10am) Field Day – Domestication of a feral colony – removal of a colony from a possum box to a standard hive. PLEASE ensure that you are well kitted up with protective gear for this event. BBQ lunch available

NOVEMBER 2011

Monday 7th (7pm) Night Meeting – Honey Analysis, bring a sample so we can test/ taste it. Eric Whitby will conduct this session and give tips on how to present your entry for competition.

Sunday 27th (10am) Field Day – Hands on Honey Extracting. BBQ lunch available

DECEMBER 2011

Sunday 4th (11.30am) 50TH Anniversary/ Christmas Lunch

Entries for The Jack Whitworth competition MUST be in by 9am Sunday 4th

President: Lamorna Osborne Secretary: Geoff Henning 9528 4292

Have a look - www.askgloves.com – useful equipment made in Pakistan

Macarthur Beekeepers Assoc Inc

The Macarthur Branch meets at the Jack Nash Tennis Centre at Jack Nash Place, Currans Hill at Mount Annan on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm

Field days at Campbelltown apiary at 9:00 am

President: Bruce Wallis 9605 6688 Treasurer: Jean Haavasalu 46818540

Secretary: Quinton Poole 0425323007 Email: quintonapoole@gmail.com

OPEN TRAINING AND EDUCATION NETWORK HAVE BEEKEEPING COURSES www.oten.edu.au

Nepean Branch Inc.

Meet at Nepean High School from 9.30. BYO Lunch. Please close all gates behind you!

Please note that your renewal fee of \$100.- is due in December. So start saving now!

Sunday October 9. We hope to split up some more hives, to suppress swarming and increase colonies to help members.

Please bring your protective clothing.

Sunday Nov. 13. We will have a discussion first and then practice what we learned.

If you require further info, please ring Eddie on 4751 3941.

President: Eddie Sijnstra (02) 4751 3941 Secretary: Paul Richardson (02) 4739 0381

Hunter Valley Branch

Meetings held at Hunter Region Botanic Gardens. The usual day is the fourth Sunday of the month.

Sunday 10am, 23rd October – General meeting – Topic Swarm Collecting – spring check of hives.

Sunday 10am, 27th November – General meeting – Topic to be decided.

President: John Humphries (02) 49828715 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

The latest publications available from the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation: www.rirdc.gov.au

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.

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