



The Macarthur Beekeeper

February 2021

Views expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the committee, the members, or the Association



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USEFUL LINKS

MBA Website:
<https://macarthur.beekeepers.asn.au>

MBA Public Facebook:
<https://facebook.com/macbeekeepers>

MBA Members Only Group:
facebook.com/groups/macbeekeepermembers

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Greetings fellow Beekeepers.

Welcome to our new members, we are glad you found us and decided to join, we value your input and involvement in ensuring MBAi remains interesting and relevant.

Once again I'll briefly touch on the changing landscape of COVID-19 out of necessity. As I write this update NSW has experienced a very positive 28 days of no new cases and amended guidelines for the number of participants permitted at indoor and outdoor events has been increased. Vaccine availability is drawing closer, diligence in the appropriate levels of personal hygiene and social distancing remain our most effective measures.

As we touched on last month, attendance at Club Field Days and the face-to-face component of Club meetings will continue to be managed through pre registration so please ensure any changes to your email address is communicated to Rob Weekhout, our webmaster. Our COVIDSafe Plans are in place; we are doing the right things to keep people safe. I encourage members to participate where it is practical for you to do so, making the effort to get out and about, meet with other beekeepers can be extremely rewarding.

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Since the last newsletter was circulated Camden Council announced their decision to cancel the 2021 Camden Show. An unfortunate but understandable decision as unlike a club meeting or field days the numbers are much larger with people attending from near and far. Let's hope it returns in 2022.

A reminder that next month's meeting, **March 17th will be our Annual General Meeting** where all club positions fall vacant. I have circulated to registered members via email and physical post an explanation of the positions needed to keep our club operating and also the appropriate nomination forms.

It is encouraging that quite a number of nominations have been received. There is still time for members to consider how they may wish to get more involved in the running of our club or nominating others they think have the talents needed to keep our club improving. Talking with the current Club Officers is a great way to understand what the roles involve and I encourage you to do so. A reminder that the positions up for nomination include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Officer, Apiary Officer, Biosecurity - Education Officer, Webmaster (these roles also make up the Club Executive Committee) Newsletter Editor, Liaison Officer, Marketing, Equipment Officer, Librarian, Facebook, and Gardening. Please carefully consider how you can support and get involved in the activities of our club.

Recently I have spoken with the staff of the Macarthur Centre of Sustainable Living in regard to better understanding requirements to support our request for the erection of a building near the apiary for use in extraction of honey and the safe storage of club equipment. MCSL have requested some very specific details e.g. engineer reports, surveys, DA, costs, cabin look, landscaping and how the cabin will fit into MCSL's ethos and mission. I continue to work on some of these and will seek to ensure work undertaken will be provided to the relevant Club Officials post the AGM.

The weather has certainly varied over the last month and I can only assume that you like me have observed the activity around your hives fluctuating in response. Earlier this month I donated a colony of bees to the club so that we can restock the Flow Hive. This was to take place during our February Field Day though unfortunately due to rain the event was cancelled. Nevertheless the hive has been relocated into the Club Apiary in the existing langstroth box and will be transferred to the Flow when time permits.

Remain diligent in observing your hives, look for changes, ask for advice if you are unsure as that is one of the great benefits of being part of MBAi

Happy Beekeeping!

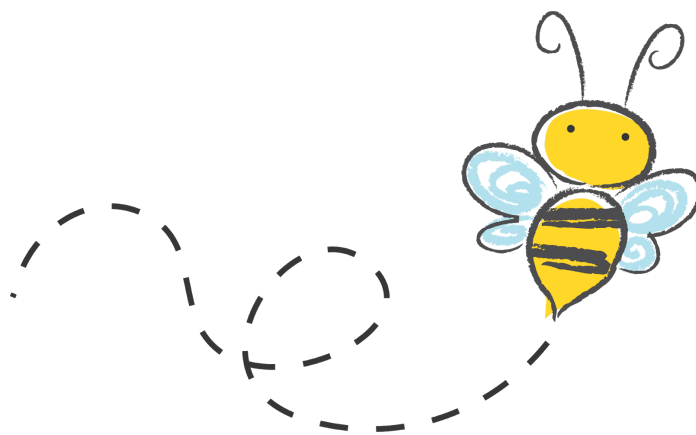
Ed



WELCOME NEWBEES

Welcome to our latest members!

Pradeep Anirudhan
Stephen Owen
Anne Steer
Lucy Londregan
Boris Kupka
Ghardakh Benyamin
Anna Sells
Carraigmichael Boweslyon
Quentin Brown



APIARY GOINGS ON

This month's field day was cancelled due to wet weather. James has been working away in the apiary during the weeks leading up to each field day, making sure all the hives are getting the best opportunity for success.

FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER

Sebastian Owen from Vita Bee Health

Topic "Nutrition - it ain't all about sugar, honey" covering the importance of honey bee nutrition and how many beekeepers seem to be getting it wrong.

Based in the UK Sebastian 'Seb' is Commercial Director at Vita Bee Health and will be joining us online via Google Meet. Seb has a background in biological sciences and is a 'part time' beekeeper, helping out at the Vita apiary whenever his travel schedule allows.

Vita Bee Health is a mite control and honeybee health specialist. It is the world's largest dedicated supplier of honey bee health products to the honey and pollination industries. You may even have used their AFB test kit at some point.



BEE INFORMED**Member contributions/Research articles**

Another quick read from Flow Hive live streams

~ From Flow Hive live videos (YouTube):

6th October, 2020

- Hexagonal cell structure (in bee hive) is the strongest structure you can build;
- Bees cap honey when moisture content is below 20%, so honey won't ferment;
- To cycle out frames, move frames with dark cells to the outer edge of the box, wait until there's no brood in it and then remove the frame. Replace it on the spot if you have a spare one ready to go;
- Naturally drawn comb (where the bees build their own cells) versus wax foundation frames (sheets of wax already attached)-
 - ~ if both in a hive box, bees will most often use foundation less frames first
 - ~ bees can build "wonky" frames when left to their own devices
 - ~ allowing bees to build their own could be a healthier version
 - ~ less work for the beekeeper if bees build their own comb and bees can size their own cells perfectly
 - ~ some beekeepers do both in a hive, so bees have a guide (to keep comb straight) to build their own.
- For the first three days of a bee's life they are fed Royal Jelly, then fed plant proteins (bee bread) made from pollen. This bee bread changes the bee from possibly being a queen to being a worker bee.
- Brood - 11 days in larva stage. The grub spins a silk cocoon around itself and the bees cap it over - 11 days metamorphosis and then the young bee chews its way out of its cell;
- Can you paint the hive boxes with bees in it?
 - ~ yes, if the bees have established brood, they won't leave the hive
 - ~ or block entrance very early in the morning so there'll only be a few bees returning to be able to paint the front of the hive. Wear a bee suit and gloves for protection.
- 9mm gap between comb surfaces of frames; space needed so bees can service all parts of frame. 6mm between the last frame and box.

6th January 2021

- It takes a frame of honey and a frame of pollen to raise a frame of brood;
- Rain over a long period of time will limit foraging time, but on the upside it sets flowers for the next round of flowering. Beekeepers, like farmers, depend on the season, which may not line up to get a crop. You may get an autumn flow instead;
- Spotting a queen cell- looks like a peanut shell, hanging down, off the frame. It's longer to allow the development of a queen which is longer than a worker bee;
- Queen bees can live up to 6 years, a worker bee can live 2 weeks in foraging season, a drone (male bee) up to 6 months.

Reference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NnsG1hBUEI&pbjreload=101>

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An important reminder

Our bees must have water! Bees use water to cool the hive down in summer. Each bee can carry 50mg of water per excursion. Bees use three mechanisms to cool an overheated hive - nest evacuation, fanning with their wings and water evaporation. Water collector bees do not spend much, if any, time in the brood nest, and yet somehow they know when to start collecting water to control its temperature.



Intrigued by this fact, scientists turned up the heat to make a bee colony thirsty. They discovered that water collector bees begin searching for water when the colony is thirsty in response to insistent begging by nest mates; and when water is available and the colony is hot, water bottle bees store water for later use. The water collectors did not spring into action immediately. It was only when the workers began desperately begging for water - by walking up to the face of another bee, contacting the bee's antennae with her own and then extending her tongue between the mouthparts of the other bee - that the water collectors increased their water-bearing activity.

By begging more, the thirsty nurse bees in the brood nest had prompted water collectors to embark on water-collection flights and the hive managed to stabilise its temperature at around 40°C. The findings are published in the Journal of Experimental Biology. Read more at:

<http://phys.org/news/2016-07-collector-bees-quench-hot-hive.html#jCp>



Blue skies have been a rarity the last few weeks. Make sure you keep an eye on the forecast and get that break you need to check your bees!

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MEDIA RELEASE

**135TH ANNUAL CAMDEN SHOW
FRIDAY 19TH MARCH 2021 - SATURDAY 20TH MARCH 2021**

The Camden Show Society Committee met on Monday 18th January 2021 to discuss the implications on the 2021 Show occurring during the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

The committee have decided, by a unanimous vote, to cancel the 135th Annual Camden Show in 2021, for the safety of our attendees, volunteers, and local community.

Due to the uncertainty of the current state of COVID-19, it was determined that the potential risk to the community was too great.

Our members, volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors, competitors, and community are of the utmost importance to us and it is with great sadness that we must cancel due to the current climate of the virus.

We thank everyone for your patience, understanding and ongoing support. We will be in contact with our stakeholders in due course.

We are looking forward to bringing back a bigger and better Show in 2022.

**136TH ANNUAL CAMDEN SHOW
FRIDAY 1ST APRIL & SATURDAY 2ND APRIL 2022**



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Tim's
Garden Centre

2 Queen St, Campbelltown, NSW 2560
Ph: 02 46267022
Trading Hours: 8.30am - 5.00pm



BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE

Answers on the last page!

Match the correct answer to each question

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Area on the hind leg of a bee adapted to carrying pellets of pollen or propolis | A. Bait Hive |
| 2. A series of sounds made by a queen, usually before she emerges from a cell | B. Piping |
| 3. Young bees, three to ten days old, which feed and take care of developing larvae | C. Hive Stand |
| 4. Removal of honey from comb | D. Pollen Basket |
| 5. Device that raises the bottom board off the ground and helps extend the life of the bottom board by keeping it dry | E. Split |
| 6. General term to describe young bees that have not yet emerged from their cells | F. Worker Bee |
| 7. An empty hive left to attract swarms of bees | G. Extraction |
| 8. An unfertilised female bee that makes up the majority of a colony's population | H. Brood |
| 9. Eight glands located on the underside of a bee's abdomen from which wax is secreted | I. Wax Glands |
| 10. To divide a colony in two to increase the number of hives | J. Nursery Bees |

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Please check the calendar on the MBAI website for event updates: www.macbeekeepers.asn.au
Deadline for submissions for our next newsletter is Sunday 14th March.

Submit articles with photos separately (not embedded in the document) or advertisement requests to Christine at: macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au

PLEASE NOTE

Club meetings will continue to be held online via Google Meet till further notice. There will be pre-registration for a small number of people to attend at the MCSL

MARCH 2021

13th - Field Day
14th - Close for Newsletter
17th - AGM 7:30pm
21st - Newsletter out

APRIL 2021

Sugar Shake Month
10th - Field Day
11th - Close for Newsletter
18th - Newsletter out
21st - Meeting 7:30pm

MAY 2021

8th - Field Day
9th - Close for Newsletter
16th - Newsletter out
19th - Meeting 7:30pm



A native Blue Banded bee on a "Butterfly bush"

CLASSIFIEDS

Club Shirts

Contact Jessie or Michael at the next meeting
With Name \$65
Without Name \$60

Club Honey

Now available in 500gm
1 kg Tubs Contact Jessie on 0409845625

WANTED TO BUY
Large quantities of honey on a regular basis.
Call Mark on 0408 412 272

For Sale \$20.00 Flow Hive 2 - Ant Proof Petals

To protect your Flow Hive 2 from ants, these screw on to the flow hives existing threaded legs. The smaller bottom petal is partly filled with oil while the top petal acts as a roof to keep rain and bees out of the oil. Currently available in yellow or red. Pickup from Mt Annan. Contact Ed. 0439 303 422 or ednap1960@gmail.com



Newsletter Advertising Short line with phone nos. = Free, Size up to 60mm by 40mm (one per member) = Free. Non-member = \$10/per month Required to renew your ad each month. Provide artwork to: Macarthur.editor@macbeekeepers.asn.au

Club equipment available to Members

The following equipment is available for use by club members:

- A two-frame manual extractor.
- An electric uncapping knife.
- A Cappings draining tray set.

For use contact Ed
Via email macarthur.president@beekeepers.asn.au
Or phone: 0439 303 422

All equipment must be returned in a clean condition ready for the next user.

BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE ANSWERS (PAGE 8)

Match the correct answer to each question

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Area on the hind leg of a bee adapted to carrying pellets of pollen or propolis D | A. Bait Hive |
| 2. A series of sounds made by a queen, usually before she emerges from a cell B | B. Piping |
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| 4. Removal of honey from comb G | D. Pollen Basket |
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| 8. An unfertilised female bee that makes up the majority of a colony's population F | H. Brood |
| 9. Eight glands located on the underside of a bee's abdomen from which wax is secreted I | I. Wax Glands |
| 10. To divide a colony in two to increase the number of hives E | J. Nursery Bees |