



The Macarthur Beekeeper

July 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

The Covid-19 pandemic seems far from over and though pleasing to see participation rates in the vaccination rollout increasing, the spike of cases in NSW and the subsequent lockdown of the Greater Sydney Region has certainly been a frustrating, but necessary, action. Similarly, I acknowledge some members, myself included, were disappointed with my decision to cancel the July Field Day. As events unfolded it proved the correct response with the lockdown being extended by another week. This Delta strain certainly appears to be a challenge. We are keen to keep activities open where we can, however we also remain committed to our Covid-safe plans to ensure alignment with the advice from the State and Federal Governments.

As I write this report the club's involvement in July 17th Bunnings Stall is on a "wait and see" status and we have confirmation, pending covid restrictions, that we are also on the list for August 7th and September 4th. Like us, Bunnings are seeking to do the right thing within the communities in which they operate and we certainly value their support.

Continues on page 2...

Relating to the community stalls, earlier this month I received a copy of the club's renewed insurance Certificate of Currency (thank you NSW ABA). I have provided a copy to the Bunnings event organiser as verification of public liability insurance which is required for all groups operating community stalls.

On a positive note, the shipping container purchased by the club has finally arrived and was successfully delivered and positioned at Anthony's, our Equipment Officer, property along with the club's equipment trailer. With our equipment now having a suitable storage facility and all being in the one location, this provides an opportunity to review the club's assets to ensure all is fit for purpose. There is also potential for us to coordinate some training days on the usage of various aspects of the equipment.



Beautiful spot for MBAi's shipping container

I certainly enjoyed listening to Bruce White's bee related stories last month. What a wealth of information and experience he has. He has been a great contributor to the beekeeping fraternity in NSW and beyond, and it was a genuine treat to have him join us to share a walk down memory lane. One top tip I picked up as a good reminder to beekeepers starting out was the recommendation to go 8 frames instead of 10. Sound advice and fully understandable to anyone who has had to lift and move multiple 10 frame boxes in a day! Other sound advice was to get well acquainted with the plants in your area as Bruce reminded us that what happens in the hive is very closely linked to what is happening in the foraging area around your apiary.

The weather has certainly been a mix. Some very cold mornings with the occasional frost, though still getting some sunny afternoons. Our bees are still active whenever the sun hits the hives, seizing every opportunity to get out and about and top up their winter stores. It is also encouraging to see those orientation flights occurring as new bees make their first excursion outside the hive, providing reassurance the queen remains productive and the colony is still regenerating. Keep an eye on what is happening around the entrance of your hives, monitor the traffic, see what is coming and going. Slide out the bottom tray occasionally, check for moisture and pests and also evidence of fresh cappings as indication of emerging brood.

Happy Beekeeping!

Ed



WELCOME NEWBEES

Welcome to our latest members!

John Chircop

Claire Squires

Emma Mottram

Abercio Ramos

Sheridan Kent



APIARY GOINGS ON

While we are learning to embrace the indoors during this cold winter season, our apiary bees are out foraging on the sunny days (what a time to be a bee!)! A lot of pollen is coming into the hives, which is good, but the bees have needed some extra help with their stores. Therefore, we have been feeding them to keep them strong.

I didn't do any frame inspections to ensure their hard work at keeping the hive at the optimum temperature was not undone. However, I could see from the top that the hives are having a good winter. This is the time to be preparing the gear for the coming season.



James

EDUCATION AND BIOSECURITY UPDATE

Dear fellow beekeepers,

As you might have heard I'm going to have a little talk about spring preparation at our next meeting. It seems like the bees are very active during this winter and they are certainly not staying home. Lucky bees. Lots of pollen is coming into the hives and the weight seems to increase too when I do the rear end lifting test. During midday there is lots of activity with orientation flights happening so the hive is still producing offspring. Keep observing and reading and see you at the next meeting!

Torsten

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER UPDATE

Membership Renewal

Just another reminder that you would have received your email to renew your annual membership to the Macarthur Beekeepers Association Inc and The Amateur Beekeepers' Association of NSW Inc for the 2021/2022 year.

The new membership period is from July 1st 2021 to June 30th 2022.

As current members of the club you only pay the yearly membership fees, which are:

MBAi yearly membership fee: **\$5**

ABA yearly membership fee: **\$20**

Optional insurance (1 to 100 hives): **\$15**

Once these fees are paid the ABA will post your 2021/22 member pack, which will include your membership card, log book and AFB test kit.

You can log into your ABA LoveAdmin account here to pay:

<https://app.loveadmin.com/Login/D2AB9E7AECE0D5B7F34524B9DF66AB3A.htm>.

If you have any questions or need assistance updating your details, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me at: macarthur.membership@beekeepers.asn.au

Rob

BEE INFORMED

Member contributions/Research articles

Free online course/resources

Ecrotek has released a free online beekeeping course that may be worth checking out for the newbees! Over 3 months, you will receive information straight to your inbox. Some of the topics covered include:

- Learning the differences between queens, workers, and drones
- Everything you need to know about eggs, brood, honey, pollen
- Components of a beehive

In addition to this new course, Ecrotek already have a good library of some informative videos and articles on their website.

For those interested in the course, you can sign up or find more information at <https://www.ecrotek.com.au/free-online-beekeeping-course>

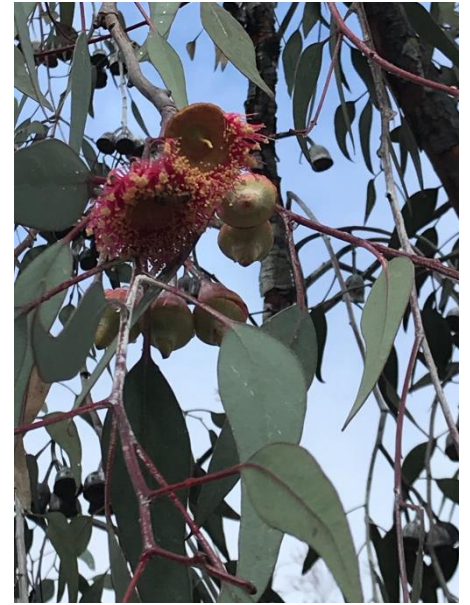
Mel



LIAISON OFFICER REPORT

My name is Rebecca Rinaldo and I am the Liaison Officer for The Macarthur Beekeeping.

I've been lucky enough to escape Sydney and have just returned from a 4-week trip across to Perth and back. One of the Bee highlights was Kings Park Botanic Gardens in Perth. It was massive, 400 hectares or 988 acres, and it's definitely worth a visit. It's located next to the Swan River and overlooks Perth City. There were so many different plants, everywhere I looked I was amazed and wasn't surprised to learn that there were over 3,000 species of the State's unique flora and I saw bees!



After a few days in Perth, we travelled south to Hamelin Bay, beautiful beaches and where the stingrays come right into the shore. On the way to Hamelin Bay we found a Bee Shop called The Colony Concepts ([The Colony Concept - Your Margaret River Region](#), www.southernforesthoney.com.au).

OMG they had everything from glass viewing of bees, honey, creamed honey, honey wine, mead, chocolate honey, honey tomato sauce, bees wax products, shampoos, body wash, body balm, styling wax, soap just to name a few things. The premises were huge. They even had a café but it closes in Winter. When I asked the owner where the hives were, she said they were off at different locations. Now, you are probably thinking I bought up big, but I couldn't - you can't take honey across the border. We actually got searched at the NSW and SA border, and in the caravan parks people would leave their honey for travellers. I did buy some things for the raffle though!



BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE**MBAi July 2021**

F	W	G	I	L	H	H	O	N	E	Y	U	F	X	C	C	O	M	B	C	H	Q	P	F
L	U	D	Y	C	F	A	F	J	Q	W	L	E	W	F	X	I	Y	J	B	S	N	A	Y
F	N	P	K	E	R	A	P	I	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	K	R	W	E	O	P	C	V
Z	C	L	H	L	U	C	A	S	T	E	S	C	I	T	U	E	M	Z	E	S	K	K	G
D	A	I	B	L	C	Z	S	C	R	E	E	N	U	I	B	K	Q	O	S	T	L	A	D
M	P	O	E	B	T	M	G	P	O	L	L	E	N	P	T	W	F	H	W	I	J	G	G
W	P	J	E	R	O	W	O	P	Q	U	E	E	N	V	E	N	O	M	A	N	A	E	P
I	I	W	T	O	S	B	E	E	H	I	V	E	N	E	C	T	A	R	X	G	E	M	C
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D	G	Z	E	D	T	B	P	M	E	N	F	C	R	F	L	J	W	P	W	R	J	A	U
E	B	E	E	B	R	U	S	H	E	V	C	O	L	O	N	Y	A	R	A	P	Y	O	S
X	S	E	X	Q	S	H	G	M	K	N	E	K	I	Q	M	W	P	O	R	U	L	P	T
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R	P	O	E	A	C	P	U	X	E	M	E	L	T	E	R	R	A	O	B	A	O	E	R
O	E	H	W	O	R	J	C	T	P	H	M	O	T	H	F	K	R	L	C	J	B	R	F
S	R	B	Q	G	O	K	O	Y	I	Z	R	N	C	L	Y	E	Y	I	F	I	B	O	L
E	L	L	Q	S	S	K	S	B	N	U	I	Q	B	K	G	R	P	S	U	R	I	M	I
H	A	A	U	K	E	O	E	Z	G	B	P	D	R	O	N	E	I	T	B	D	N	O	G
P	R	F	E	E	D	E	R	E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E	N	Z	R	B	G	G	N	H
P	V	Y	X	E	X	C	L	U	D	E	R	B	E	X	T	R	A	C	T	O	R	E	T
C	A	P	P	I	N	G	S	F	O	U	L	B	R	O	O	D	A	C	W	E	N	S	W
G	K	S	D	I	A	P	O	L	L	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	L	H	Z	J	P	S	K
Y	R	F	O	U	N	D	A	T	I	O	N	O	F	R	A	M	E	O	L	T	X	V	L
I	H	R	W	V	S	E	O	T	V	A	B	D	O	M	E	N	P	G	L	E	D	P	Y

Abdomen Apiary Apiculture Beebrush Beehive Beekeeping Beeswax
 Beetle Brood Cappings Castes Cell Cluster Colony Comb Dextrose
 Drone Entrance Excluder Extractor Feeder Flight Foulbrood
 Foundation Frame Fructose Glucose Honey Larva Melter Moth
 Nectar Package Pheromones Pollen Pollination Propolis Pupa Queen
 Robbing Screen Stinger Sucrose Super Swarm Uncapping Venom
 Worker

[Answers on the last page!](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Covid willing, our next event at Narellan Bunnings is a member's honey stall

Saturday 17th July

We also have stalls booked at Narellan Bunnings for

- 7th August
- 4th September

Volunteer and come along! It is a great opportunity to sell your honey and bee products.

Remember, honey needs to be priced and labelled in line with club protocols. Bee cosmetics are not covered by ABA or members public liability insurance.

Club shirt orders are now due. Please see article (page 11) in this newsletter and contact me if you wish to purchase a shirt.

Contact Jeanette at macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au

Jeanette

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Please check the calendar on the MBAi website for event updates: macarthur.beekeepers.asn.au
 Deadline for submissions for our next newsletter is Sunday 15th August.

Submit articles with photos separately (not embedded in the document) or advertisement requests to Mel 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 number of people to attend at the MCSL

AUGUST 2021

14th - Field Day
15th - Close for Newsletter
18th – Meeting 7.30pm
22nd - Newsletter out

SEPTEMBER 2021

11th - Field Day
12th - Close for Newsletter
15th - Meeting 7:30pm
19th - Newsletter out

OCTOBER 2021

9th - Field Day
10th - Close for Newsletter
17th - Newsletter out
20th - Meeting 7:30pm

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



SPONSOR PRODUCTS OF THE MONTH

As part of the newsletter, we will be putting a spotlight on a product each month from our sponsors. If you have any products you would recommend, please email macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au. Please note that these products are shown for informational purposes only and prices are accurate as at the time of writing. As many beekeepers will tell you, there are many products that can do the same job and much of the decision can come down to preference and budget. We strongly encourage you to speak to other club members or the store directly for more information, feedback and advice.



Beetle Bomber Base Board – Australian Made RRP: \$70

These high quality Australian made base boards are 100% Australian made, right here in our Sydney workshop - even the glue is Australian made!

How do they work?

A hive with high humidity is the perfect environment for small hive beetle eggs to hatch; the correct humidity triggers their eggs to hatch!

To help prevent this, the Australian made Beetle Bomber board in conjunction with BlueBees was born. The BlueBees board has ventilation valleys to help keep humidity low and prevent small hive beetle eggs from hatching. The specially designed valleys are angled so adult beetles slip through the gaps and out of the hive - preventing them from laying. The valleys are wide enough for the beetle to fall through but too small for bees to fall through.

The system interrupts the Beetles life cycle in your apiary keeping Beetle numbers low and thus helps keep your beehives thriving.

Available in 8 and 10 frames.

<https://beekeeping.iwoohoo.com.au/hive-parts/beetle-bomber-base-board-australian-made-8-frame/>



Unit 1A 1 Swaffham Rd, Minto NSW 2566
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm
Open Saturdays 9am to 1pm
Tel: 02 9731 7400



Ventilated 3 layer overall with hood exclusive to HBS

MSRP: \$124.99

Currently \$115.50

- Three layers of open weave fabric for airflow on hot days.
- Depth of the three layers puts space between you and bee stings - this suit is almost sting free (not 100%).
- Velcro tabs at cuffs and ankles.
- Heavy duty METAL zips for durability.
- Throw over 'Sherriff' style hood.
- Heavy duty material at wear points.
- Plenty of pockets for useful items and tools.
- 'Hat veil' option available.



Suitable for all hobby beekeepers - beginner or experienced.

<https://hornsby-beekeeping.com/ventilated-3-layer-overall-with-hood-exclusive-to-hbs/>



Hornsby Store

Unit # 8 47 - 51 Jersey Street, Hornsby, NSW 2077
 Monday - Friday (9 AM - 5 PM)
 Saturdays (9 AM - 4 PM)
 Phone: (02) 9477 5569

Mt Druitt Store

Unit 11, 71 Kurrajong Avenue, Mt. Druitt, NSW 2770
 Monday - Friday: 10 AM - 6 PM
 Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM
 Phone: (02) 9625 5424

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CLUB SHIRT?

We are looking to order club shirts. There are two options:

Option 1

Existing Bisley style

Available in Sand colour in standard mens and womens sizes.

Price will depend on numbers ordered. Base price for men \$41.95 and women \$58.95.

Available in long or short sleeves



- Two pleated button down chest pockets
- Left chest pocket with pen division
- Centre back box pleat
- Two piece structured collar
- Two button adjustable sleeve cuff
- Contrast, natural coloured buttons

Option 2

Syzmik

Available in Stone colour in standard mens and womens sizes.

Price will depend on numbers ordered. Base price for long sleeves \$50.95 and short sleeves \$45.95.



- 100gsm crinkle resistant breathable lightweight fabric
- Extra-large under arm mesh and upper back venting to maximise air flow, roll up tab sleeves
- Two chest pockets, one mobile phone chest zip pocket

Embroidery on shirts

Price dependent on the number ordered.

Club name on left front \$9.95.

Name additional on right front \$9.95.

Payment on delivery.

Contact Jeanette at macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au

CLASSIFIEDS

Diatomaceous Earth

Now available in
500g tubs for \$7
Contact Ed on
0439 303 422

WANTED TO BUY

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

NUCLEUS HIVES FOR SALE

Available from mid-September (weather permitting)

Established 5 frame colony with 2021 queen in corflute box.

Pickup \$220 each or delivery and installation into your own box offered for a small fee.

Order now

Limited number available for September

Call Torsten on 0425357643 or E-Mail engelhardt@optusnet.com.au

BEE HIVE AGISTMENT

We have had Tim contact us in relation to the possibility of one of our members leaving some bee hives at his property in exchange for some of the honey produced. Property location is Orangeville and he is on 12 acres. Please contact Tim Jeffcott on 0413 010 027 for more information.

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@beekeepers.asn.au

Club equipment available to Members

The following equipment is available for use by club members:

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

For use contact Ed

Via email

macarthur.president@beekeepers.asn.au

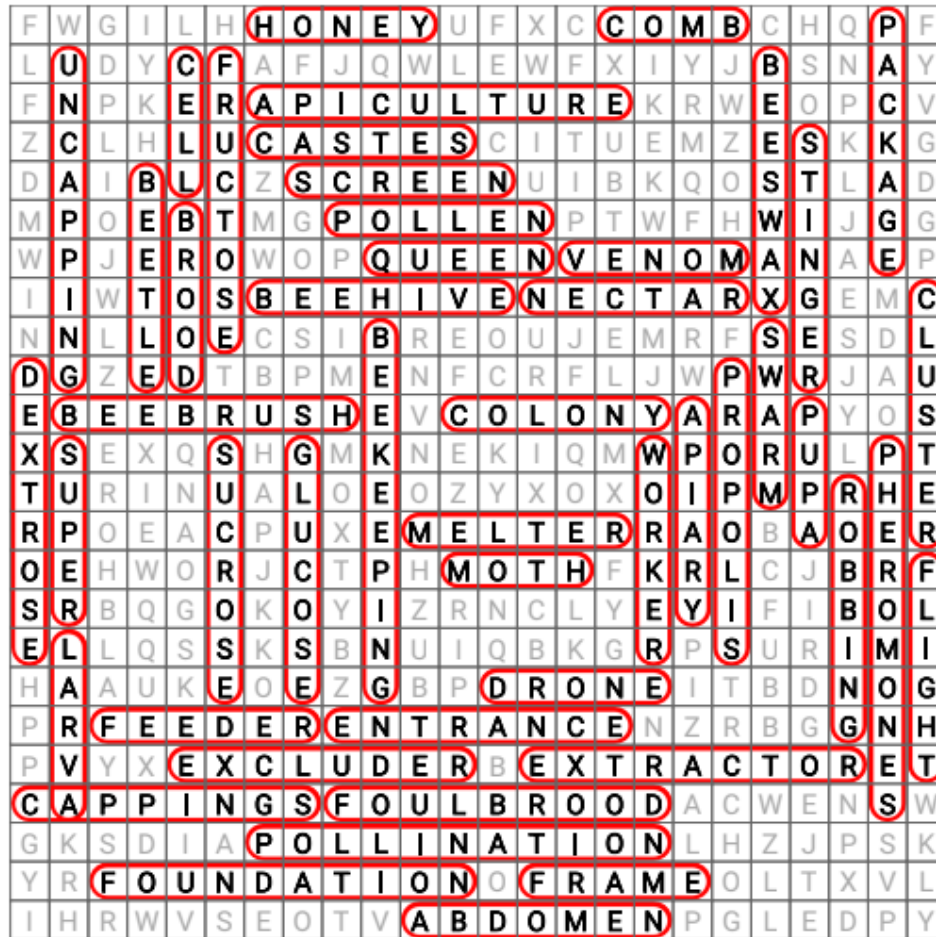
Or phone:

0439 303 422

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

BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE ANSWERS (PAGE 6)

MBAi July 2021



Abdomen Apiary Apiculture Beebrush Beehive Beekeeping Beeswax
 Beetle Brood Cappings Castes Cell Cluster Colony Comb Dextrose
 Drone Entrance Excluder Extractor Feeder Flight Foulbrood
 Foundation Frame Fructose Glucose Honey Larva Melter Moth
 Nectar Package Pheromones Pollen Pollination Propolis Pupa Queen
 Robbing Screen Stinger Sucrose Super Swarm Uncapping Venom
 Worker