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**Amateur  
Beekeepers  
Association**  
NSW

# THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS

June/July 2020

## WINTER TASKS

*Assembling boxes*

Tips for building hives  
that last longer – and  
look smarter

## EUROPEAN FOULBROOD

The right and wrong ways  
to treat it



Getting rid of AFB  
**STEP-BY-STEP**  
Safe and effective solutions

**THE NEW CODE OF PRACTICE**

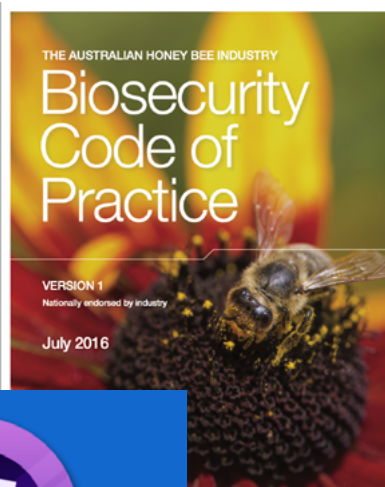
**DO YOU KNOW THE RULES?  
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE, WIN A PRIZE**

# June/July 2020 Contents



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Beekeepers  
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NSW

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The **Amateur Beekeeper** is the journal of the Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW Inc. It is distributed to members six times a year, in December, February, April, June, August and October.

The editor will consider adverts from businesses relevant to beekeepers to run free of charge where they contain a discount or special offer to ABA members. Please email [editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:editor@beekeepers.asn.au)

Do you have a photo you'd like to be considered for the cover of the next issue. Send it in to [editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:editor@beekeepers.asn.au)

# Behind the scenes

## Acting ABA president Sheila Stokes outlines what the association has been up to in recent months

Well, this strange year is flying past, and winter is setting in already. Many of our clubs have been holding online meetings, and finding new ways to share knowledge and support local beekeepers as we head into the cooler months.

Our association continues to spread and grow as we welcome Wagga Wagga Amateur Beekeepers Club as our 29th affiliated club, taking us to over 3000 members.

Wagga is an established club based at Charles Sturt University, with a mix of amateur and professional beekeepers, and is now our western-most outpost in NSW. But our membership spreads even further than that, with members in every Australian state and territory, supported by clubs in Queensland and the Northern Territory, as well across the length of NSW.

We currently have two more clubs in the process of applying for affiliation: Orana Beekeepers in Central West NSW, and Cumberland Beekeepers in Western Sydney, and we look forward to welcoming them on board shortly.

Beekeeping is often a solitary occupation, but behind the scenes your Association is working hard to ensure that our combined voices are heard. Some of the ABA executive's recent projects include:

- working with Australian Honey Bee Industry Council and the State Advisory Group to supply a biosecurity manual to every ABA member in the 2020/21 membership pack
- helping the NSW DPI to distribute sugar shake kits to beekeepers via our network of NSW clubs, and helping to get record numbers of participants to sending in their results for Sugar Shake Month
- continuing to collect honey samples from clubs around NSW to



- test for evidence of AFB spores
- assisting the NSW DPI with a review of the new online Beekeeper's Portal
- supporting a move to enable all registered beekeepers to have free access to Plant Health Australia's online bee biosecurity training.

To maintain this position of trust and respect with state and federal bodies, it is vital that we can demonstrate that we take our responsibilities seriously. So this is a good time to remind everyone that the Australian Honeybee Industry Council's Biosecurity Code of Practice comes into force for all NSW beekeepers on 1 July 2020.

See page 4 for further details. And don't miss our special online quiz, where you can test how well you know the details of the Code.



## BEE SHORT FILM CONTEST 2020 WINNERS

**T**HIS YEAR we received short film entries from across the world, as well as work from close to home. With just a few minutes to tell their stories, film makers chose an eclectic range styles to entertain, inform and delight -- from an evocative documentary explaining the plight of an ageing apiarist in Belgium; to a touching family drama set in the US; a two-minute orchestral celebration of bee pastures in Hungary; and a whimsical animation by an Australian film maker.

We've awarded three winners: *Beekeeping*, directed by Jenn Dlugos and Charlie Hatton; *A Passion of Gold and Fire*, directed by Pins Sébastien; and *Petrichor*, directed by Shirin Shakhesi.

In usual circumstances, we'd be screening the films at our conference. Instead, this time we are thrilled to make a selection of films available at [beekeepers.asn.au/ababeeshorts](http://beekeepers.asn.au/ababeeshorts) Enjoy!



## REGULATIONS

# How well do you know the new rules?

## The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice becomes mandatory for NSW beekeepers from July 1. Are you compliant?

**Y**OU'VE HAD months to prepare for the new set of beekeeping rules that come into force from July 1. The code sets out the minimum standards. So for most beekeepers who manage their hives carefully to minimise the risks of pests and diseases, it's likely that not much changes. However, it pays to make sure your beekeeping techniques comply with the code, particularly where it comes to the precise rules around managing AFB and keeping records. Your bees and the hives kept by beekeepers in your community will be all the stronger for it.

The code was developed in consultation with beekeepers and governments "to incorporate fundamental biosecurity principles into the practices of all Australian beekeepers" and first released in July 2016. Since then the honey bee industry has been working with states and territories to get them to make the code's principles mandatory. For NSW, this happens on July 1, 2020.

The Code of Practice is available as a free download via [beekeepers.asn.au/resources-for-beekeepers](http://beekeepers.asn.au/resources-for-beekeepers) or at [beeaware.org.au](http://beeaware.org.au). It's brief, precise and easy to understand.

## Here's your chance to test your knowledge of the Code! We've created a 20-question Kahoot! quiz for you to play online.

- **To get started**  
Either download the free Kahoot! app for your mobile phone (from wherever you get your mobile apps) or go to the website [Kahoot.it](http://Kahoot.it)
- Then simply type in the PIN **06905195**



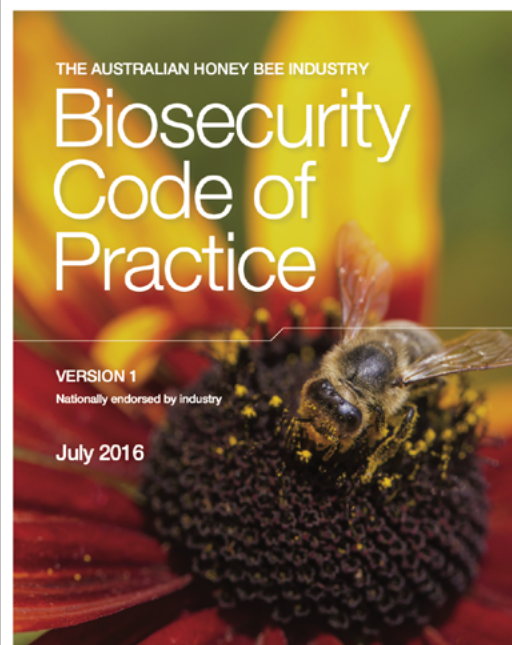
### To be in the running to win a prize

When Kahoot! asks you to enter a 'nickname', simply type in your ABA ID number.\*

After submitting each answer, you'll see if you were right or wrong.

The game will stay active until June 30 or until 2000 members have played. We will award an ABA keyring (valued at \$10) to 10 members picked at random who record a perfect score.

**Enter now!** You'll test your knowledge, you may win a prize, and feedback from the results will help us improve member education projects in the future.



The Code has been developed to incorporate fundamental biosecurity principles into the practices of all Australian beekeepers.

- Training and planning
- Reducing exposure of bees to pests and diseases
- Controlling pests and diseases
- Controlling the spread of undetected disease in an apiary
  - Keeping accurate records
- Hive and equipment maintenance

Some parts of the Code apply to all beekeepers; others apply only to those with 50 or more hives.

\*Your ABA ID is a four-digit number printed on the back of your membership card.

If you cannot find your membership card, get your number by logging on to the membership system at [beekeepers.asn.au/sign-in](http://beekeepers.asn.au/sign-in). Your ABA ID is listed under the 'Personal Details' tab and recorded after your name and email.

You can take the quiz without giving your ABA ID but you will not be in the running for a prize.

# Better than beeswax?

Bruce White explains why beekeepers should be wary of a new product on the market

**S**AMPLES OF a synthetic comb developed overseas have recently turned up at some local beekeeping suppliers. While regular foundation is formed from recycled beeswax, these sheets are made of a compound that mimics the real thing. And instead of being supplied as a flat sheet impressed with the pattern of cells, the new product is moulded into the shape of fully drawn comb.

The claimed advantage: bees don't have to use energy (honey) or time drawing out the comb – it is ready to work straightaway.

Sheets of this synthetic comb fit in a full-depth Langstroth frame. They are fixed either by the regular embedding method (heating the frame wires) or by placing toothpicks through the holes in the side bars of the frame.

The manufacturers explain the artificial wax is formed using a proprietary blend of fatty acids, fatty alcohols, fatty acid monoesters, diesters and triesters, hydroxyesters and hydrocarbons. A breakdown of waxes in real beeswax is shown right. The melting point is different by only a few degrees.

Wax content type	Percentage
Hydrocarbons	14%
Monoesters	35%
Diesters	14%
Triesters	3%
Hydroxy monoesters	4%
Hydroxy polyesters	8%
Acid esters	1%
Acid polyesters	2%
Free fatty acids	12%
Free fatty alcohols	1%
Unidentified	6%



Fig. 15. UNDER-SIDE OF WORKER BEE, SHOWING WAX SCALES.

### Is it a good idea?

Bees carefully manage beeswax in the colony to meet changing con-

ditions so it is likely the synthetic wax and their own naturally produced beeswax secretions will become mixed in the hive. At any rate, when beekeepers uncap synthetic comb to extract honey, both waxes will end up in the cappings.

What are the likely food safety issues especially if used for cut comb?

Dr Peter Day, Director of Compliance and Integrity Systems for NSW Department of Primary Industries Biosecurity and Food Safety notes that the manufacturers warrant the product complies with US Food



**Australian beeswax is much in demand since it is a pure product, untainted by the chemicals beekeepers in other markets use to control Varroa**

and Drug Administration (the US version of FSANZ) requirements and has undergone testing to show no migration of compounds occurs from the honeycomb. "They claim the compounds the synthetic honeycomb is made from are the same that are actually found in natural honeycomb. On that basis I can't see much that would create an issue with current food safety requirements."

Other questions remain: Will the waxes when melted blend together lower the value of pure beeswax? Currently Australian beeswax is highly prized for many products, especially pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and candles.

Can the synthetic wax be detected in real wax? Does it have any effect on hive health and functionality?

My conclusion: it would be unwise to introduce this product into your hives as it has to result in the blending of pure beeswax and the synthetic comb.



### Arthur Garske tested the synthetic comb in a hive. This is what happened:

*I thought I would get a frame of this product filled and sealed by a strong hive working a honey flow. So I found a hive with a full-depth box of sealed honey which was topped by two ideals -- one three-quarters full and the other about half full. I swapped out a middle frame from the full-depth box of sealed honey.*

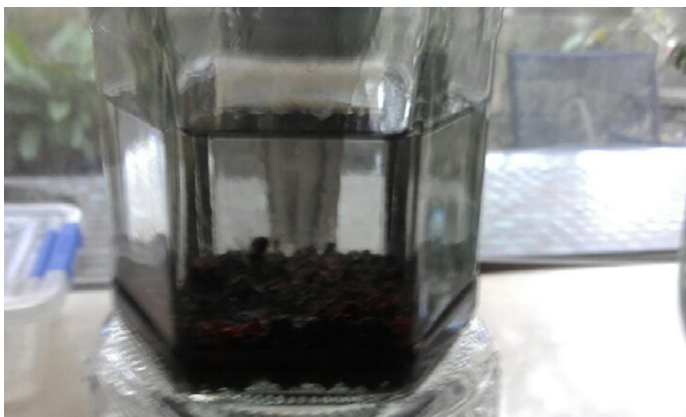
*The bees worked steadily for the next six weeks. I then decided it was time to go back to pull out what I expected to be a nice new synthetic frame full of honey.*

*I put down an upturned lid and I lifted the two full ideals and lid as one unit.*

*When I turned to the super with the new comb, I could not believe my eyes. Dozens of small hive beetles were running over the top bar, some taking off, others running back down on the frame.*

*I quickly pulled the frame out to find it covered with SHB. It had not a skerrick of honey in the cells; instead they were filled with adult beetles.*

*I promptly dumped the frame heavily on its end bar*



A fraction of the SHB found in the artificial comb Arthur tested

into a pail several times to shake off the SHB. Many ran up the walls and took flight.

Banging the sides of the pail, I dashed to a hose but instead of drowning in the water, more just swam to the side wall, ran up and took off. I banged on the sides, dislodging them back into the water, hurried into the kitchen and poured hot water on the rest. That stopped the exodus.

Back at the hive, I put the original frame of honey back in the space, and replaced the ideals and lid. I noticed only four or five hive beetles in those top ideals.

I have never seen anything like this in my beekeeping career. It was unbelievable!

## BEE BEHAVIOUR

# How bees make comb

## A 10-day-old bee can secrete wax but it takes cooperative effort to turn it into comb

It's a familiar sight for beekeepers who work hives without foundation – strings of bees clinging together in chains, leg gripping leg. These chains, or festoons, allow the bees to construct their own comb. It's work that is precise, delicate and highly engineered – and has long fascinated anyone who watches bees up close.

Below, Iosif Khalifman, describes the process in great detail. From his book "Bees, A Book on the Biology of the Bee Colony and the Achievements of Bee-Science" (1951).



Bees hang in live festoons like electrified chains from the top bars of the frames, parallel to the surface of the comb they are building.

The bee that is uppermost in each of the live chains clutches at the top bar with her fore legs while with her hind legs she holds the fore legs of the bee next to her, the latter doing the same for the next bee, and so on, to the end of the chain reaching sometimes down to the bottom. The separate chains are connected between one another by the middle legs of the building bees, so that a living pulsating fabric is the result.



Abdominal segment of worker-bee showing wax mirrors

The honey-stomachs of the bees are filled with honey from the colony's store and chemical processes are taking place in the tiny laboratories of their bodies. Here carbohydrates are transformed into complex ethers, fatty acids, and saturated hydrocarbons. Honey is converted into building material, about four kilogrammes of honey being necessary for bees to produce one kilogramme of wax.

The festoons of comb-builders include both young, two-day-old bees and old bees up to the age of forty days, which may make up half of the cluster. But such bees with wax glands either undeveloped or atrophied take no part in secreting wax or building combs; they only help the builders to maintain the temperature in the cluster. Wax is secreted and the building is done by the bees whose wax glands are at the best stage of development.

A bee beginning to secrete wax leaves the cluster, runs upwards and pricking each wax scale with the spines on her hind legs passes them to the mandibles to masticate before affixing them to the ceiling of the hollow in the tree or the top bar of the frame. In this manner, the basis of the combs, which will soon hang over the hive bottom, is built.

After the first wax scale has been attached, the bee adds to it more and more, until she uses up all the scales

from her eight wax pockets, when she returns to the festoon of builders. Her place is taken by another builder who continues the work started by the first bee.



A wax scale pierced by the spines of the hind leg is thus removed from the wax-pocket between the mirror and the overlapping part of the preceding sternum. The scale is grasped by the fore leg and passed to the mandibles. Masticated and softened, the wax scale is added to the comb being built.

One bee after another adds pieces of soft, sticky masticated wax to the comb hanging like a spongy, porous mass over the empty space. Over them other bees are engaged in building cell foundations, from which a third group will start drawing cell walls.

A similar process is going on at other points a few inches apart.

BE CREATIVE

# Outside the box

Bee boxes can be as colourful as you want – as this project proves

**L**AST ISSUE we invited members to get creative with the painting of their bee hives – and then to show us the results.

This issue we feature the colourful designs created by Hunter Valley member Mark Winton's family.

"It was created as family project over recent months and involved myself, my wife and our young nieces, who provided the creative drawing and painting skills," explains Mark. "The design was inspired by a play on the word "bee" and also as a result of a variety of items we have seen at country shows over the years." Worked into the design: "Beehive" (a hairdo in the "60s), "Bee in your bonnet", "Queen bee" and "Save the bees."



*Mark Winton with nieces Mary Dixon (left) and Lilly Casey (right)*

"My dream of learning and owning beehives was developed over the last four or five years after meeting another extremely experienced, enthusiastic beekeeper who has helped and mentored me in this lifestyle and hobby. I have embraced the beekeeping community in the Port Macquarie/Hastings area and love the fact that we now have a local network of similarly enthusiastic and committed beekeepers."

Today Mark has 30 hives and a small, thriving network of friends, family and community-based customers for his honey. "The drought and recent (too close for comfort fires) have led to challenges and the need for regularly feeding the bees. I hope for a better spring and seasons ahead for the bees and us."



**We'd love to see your bee art!**

Email [editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:editor@beekeepers.asn.au) If your project is featured here, we'll send you an ABA lapel pin to say 'thank you'.

## HOBBY BEEKEEPERS EVENT

# Discount tickets available

**I**T'S THE conference you can attend from your own lounge! Australian Women in Beekeeping, is organising a virtual event on June 20, from 10 am to 4 pm, with speakers from around the country and the USA. The ABA has 100 tickets available to members for the discounted price of \$20 each. (The regular price is \$25.)

To buy your ticket, [click here](#), or go to [eventbrite.com.au](http://eventbrite.com.au) and search on Virtual Hobby. Enter promo code "ABA" at the checkout for the reduced price. Only 100 tickets are available at this reduced price, so don't delay. AWB founder Kate Bamford started organising this day when state-based events had to be cancelled due to the COVID19 crisis. She is donating profits to bee charities.



**11 + 1**  
STUNNING  
SPEAKERS

- The Australia Honey Bee Industry Council • NT Bees Hive Tour • Natural Beekeeping Tas • Small Hive Beetle with Dr Diana Leemon • Mead Making with Tom • Parliament House Bees with Cormac • The Science of Honey with Dr Kate Hammer • Honey Tasting with Jess • Valkenburg Apiaries • Bees the Gateway Insect with Cedar Anderson • #plantmorebee food with Costa

**SATURDAY**  
**20**  
**JUNE**  
10AM-4PM

**Ticket**  
**\$25**

**Book @**  
**eventbrite**  
**or Facebook**

## HEARD IN THE BEE SHOP

# How to treat EFB

## Beware the instant bee expert proffering fake views

**D**ISCONSOLATE beekeeper enters the store. Bad news, he moans. The DPI lab says I have European Foul Brood (EFB). So what do I do now?

No problem, says the vocal expert. (Doesn't every bee shop have one!)

"Simply move the bees on their frames temporarily to another box, wash out the hive with vinegar and rinse with water. When the boxes are dry, put the bees back and all will be well.

### **Total rubbish!**

Shifting bees to another box, even temporarily, risks spreading the disease to the other box.

EFB is a bacterial disease of bees. The bacterium *Melissococcus plutonius* primarily attacks larvae in the pearly white, curled-up stage.

In severe cases, brood of all ages may be affected. Diseased larvae collapse and become dislodged from their normal position in the cells. Their colour changes from pearly white to yellow and finally a yellowish brown. After two to four weeks, each larva dries up to form a brown scale which can easily be removed from the cell.

A hive infected with EFB becomes unproductive and may die out. Fortunately, EFB can be treated with the antibiotic oxytetracycline hydrochloride (OTC).

The larger beekeeping shops can supply OTC but

### Finding out about EFB

Refer to your **Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers** (sent to all ABA members in their 2020 membership pack). This contains useful information on many pests and diseases relevant to local honeybees.

Online, [beeaware.org.au](http://beeaware.org.au) has details on identifying and treating local pests and diseases.

**The DPI has a fact sheet on EFB and its control:** [dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/333388/European-foulbrood-and-its-control.pdf](http://dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/333388/European-foulbrood-and-its-control.pdf) (This was written some time ago so contact details may be out of date.)



will need either a script from a vet or an "order to supply" from the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

**LESSON** Beware the vocal "expert" with the too-easy-to-be-true solution.

It's a much better idea to check the basic beekeeping bible, *Bee Agskills*, published by NSW DPI, or do a Google search (combining the problem with the phrase NSW DPI) to find an authoritative answer geared to local conditions.

**Q** "If I think my bees have been infected with EFB, what do I do?"

**A** In NSW, send suspect EFB infected comb or a larval smear sample to the State Veterinary Laboratory. Information on how to do this is at [dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/compliance/samples](http://dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/compliance/samples)

Testing is free for NSW registered beekeepers.

If the sample tests positive for EFB, the lab will send you the following message: "EFB is treatable with antibiotics. However, treatment of bee hives with antibiotics is strictly prescribed, not always necessary and generally not considered best practice."

If you have a query on how to access EFB antibiotic treatment you can contact NSW DPI Honey Bee Technical Specialist Elizabeth Frost on [elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

For advice on biosecurity best practice, including how to manage EFB without the use of antibiotics, contact [bee.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bee.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or call the NSW hotline on 1800 084 881. The DPI will arrange for an officer to contact you within a few days.

## UPDATE Sugar Shake Month

**As of 7 May, 268 sugar shake results had been submitted to NSW DPI from beekeepers across the state – that's an 80 per cent increase over last year. 267 were negative for varroa mite. And a sample was submitted to the lab from the one suspect positive and – thankfully – it came back negative too.**



# How to build hives that last longer

## Follow these tips if you want your bee boxes to last 30 years

**W**ARRÉ, Flow, Kenyan and Langstroth hives may require different beekeeping techniques but they are all based on timber boxes.

Far too often wooden bee boxes fail because the wood rots. This is no surprise given the wood is exposed to all weathers and the inside of the box is often very humid when nectar is being matured.

Usually bee boxes come as a "flat pack" consisting of two ends and two sides.

Copper naphthanate is sold at the major beekeeping suppliers and can be used to treat timber beehive components to reduce the likelihood of timber rot.

Typically copper naphthanate is quite concentrated, presenting as a dark green oily mix. It can be diluted in a ratio of one part of copper naphthanate to two parts turpentine. That makes it

the consistency of green ink. Avoid allowing the solution to contact the skin and avoid inhaling the vapour.

Some beekeepers fully dip the wooden components. Others dip only the ends of the boards, on the



basis that the fungi that cause timber rot are active in areas that remain wet, typically the finger-jointed

corners of the box.

Most beekeepers nail their boxes together. Galvanised 65 mm by 2.8 mm bullet-headed nails are commonly used. Drilling a clearance hole makes the timber "fingers" less likely to split.

There is no prize for nailing the box together with the hand holds on the inside!

With some 40 nails per bee box, this task takes some time (and nails). Make sure to keep the box square. Some beekeepers rest the box they are assembling on a metal lid cover (the type with folded edges). That way they can keep the box square as they nail.



The corners of the bee box seem to suffer the most damage when they are handled. A box full of honey is heavy and bumping the corners against another box is hard to avoid. Moving whole hives also seems to take a toll on sharp edges.

To reduce this problem, round the corners with a plane, sander or router.

Now for the treatment of the box. Bee boxes can be dipped in hot beeswax but the wax needs to be well over 100°C and in a large container to allow the box to be fully submerged. The risks of fire and serious burns are all too obvious. Definitely not appropriate for the average recreational beekeeper!

So painting the box it is. But what paint to use?

Acrylic paints are popular, widely available and the clean-up can be done with water. The paint remains flexible as it sets and this is an advantage on bee boxes that "move" a little with weather changes. This means less chance of the painted surface cracking and opening. However, the edges of recently acrylic-painted boxes inevitably stick together. When prized apart, the paint peels from one box and the timber protection is lost.

Oil-based paints are not as popular but do set very hard and with an impervious finish. The tough finish is excellent for the top and bottom edges of the box. Allow a reasonable drying time and you will find there is little tendency for boxes to stick together.

Cleaning-up after using oil-based paints will involve turpentine.

The other issue for all paints is the problem of the "bleed through" of the copper naphthanate. Unless there is very long time delay between copper naphthanate treatment and the primer coat, some of the green colour appears in the next coat.

Some primers have a "no bleed" component to limit



this but even they can allow a green tinge to appear on subsequent coats.

The Inveterate Inventor recommends painting both the inside and outside of beehive boxes for the longest lasting woodware. (Some beekeepers argue for leaving the inside of the boxes raw and roughed to more closely mimic natural nesting conditions. But if your

main concern is hive box longevity, a thorough paint job is the best way to protect your investment.)

To each their own!

The inveterate inventor is a purist about beehive boxes and now uses an oil-based "no bleed" primer, then acrylic full-gloss for the box sides, and an oil-based paint on the top and bottom edges.

Total paint cost per box is about \$4, while the nails cost about \$2.

Fussy, detailed and time consuming work no doubt. But boxes are not cheap and if well-built can last 20 or 30 years.



*Thanks to AG, GC and BW for their ideas.*



## How to deal with an AFB-infected hive

NSW Department of Primary Industries **Bee Biosecurity Officer**

**Rod Bourke** explains the safe and effective steps:

**I** OFTEN GET called by mortified beekeepers who have just found American foulbrood (AFB) in their hives, asking what to do next. Bruce White had a great article on AFB FAQs in the last edition. I want to add a few specific points on preparing hives for destruction.

The absolute first thing you should do if you suspect AFB is [send a slide away to the state veterinary lab](#) for diagnosis. If it comes back positive for AFB, you 100% know. This makes the upcoming job far easier (as we all hate the idea of killing bees). Sending in the slide also means you have fulfilled your legal obligation to notify NSW DPI of the disease.

If the suspect hive is weak, PLEASE reduce the entrance so that the bees can protect themselves from robbing (which will spread the disease further). Pull off all additional boxes and honey to keep the colony reasonably tight until the diagnosis comes back. Clearly identify all removed equipment and store it securely. Don't mix it with other gear.

If it comes back as European foulbrood, then rejoice as there are many things that you can do to save the colony. If the result is negative but you are not convinced, send in a new sample.

Once you get a confirmation of AFB, you have seven days to deal with it and destroy the bees. Use this time to plan the operation instead of rushing and perhaps doing it wrong.

Some beekeepers are so shocked by the discovery of AFB they just want to burn everything. While you may choose this extreme action, you can actually recover a lot of equipment from an infected hive and reuse it once irradiated. Irradiation is generally far less expensive than buying new gear (unless what you have is old junk that's due for replacement anyway). If equipment is new or expensive (for instance, Flow boxes), irradiation is always the best option.

### Steps for preparing the hive

1. Unless you plan to burn everything, pull all honey frames and other unused frames out of the hive. (Leave only active or used brood frames inside.) Honey can be extracted, and frames irradiated and then reused, but you need to remove them BEFORE you introduce petrol. Wax absorbs petrol (and many other potentially toxic-to-bee compounds), so you don't want to reuse comb that has been exposed to the fumes.

2. If you are removing honey and additional frames, bring *two* spare boxes, a bottom board and a lid. Frames removed from the brood box will need to be securely housed in a bee-proof

container. Also bring a piece of shade cloth to protect components from any robbing bees while you are working.

**3.** Ensure the reduced hive can still accommodate the entire colony. If your colony is strong, you may need to leave a second box above the brood frames. This is where the second spare box is used. Remember: these boxes, bottom board and lid will all need to be irradiated later.

**4.** Some people remove the queen from infected colonies for use elsewhere. Queens are considered low risk for transmitting AFB, but not NO RISK. Obviously, breeder queens or those from good colonies are more valuable than failing or swarm queens. If a queen is removed from an AFB colony and caged, introduce her to a new cage with new escorts the next day and then wait a few days before adding her to a new colony.

**5.** Once you have gone through the entire hive, place the remaining frames with brood or evidence of AFB in the centre of the brood box and determine if you need to add a second box. Keep the excluder and mat with the gear removed from the hive.

**6.** If you have a vented bottom board, remove any associated trays. Measure up the vented area (generally the box width by the length inside the two cleats). Cut some cardboard, carpet or sheets of newspaper to size so that you can seal the hive later.

**7.** Ensure the hive is strapped tightly and block any holes or gaps (apart from the entrance) with tape, newspaper or foam rubber. Partially block the entrance if the colony appears weak or in danger of robbing.

Come back at night, when the field bees have returned to the hive.

**8.** The rule of thumb is a cup of petrol to euthanize a single-box colony and perhaps an extra half or full cup if it is very strong – but often it is easier and safer to pour an estimated measure direct from a jerry can. If you are doing this job by yourself, a head-lamp with a red filter will be really useful. (Red light won't attract bees as much as regular white light.) Otherwise, a second person can hold the torch and smoker.

**9.** Fire and petrol are not a good combination, so please light the smoker well away from the petrol container (which is kept closed) and never have them near each other during the procedure!

**10.** Smoke the entrance and block it up.

**11.** For hives with full bottom boards, loosen the hive strap, lift the lid and give a quick puff of smoke. Carefully and promptly replace the lid. For hives with a ventilated bottom board, DO NOT loosen the strap but instead carefully tilt the hive backwards and eventually upside down onto its lid, so the ventilated bottom board is facing up.

**12.** Place the smoker well away from the hive and petrol container.

**13.** Collect the petrol container and open it upon returning to the hive. For ventilated bottom boards you simply pour the petrol in through the vents and then block them with your prepared cardboard\carpet\paper. With other hives, reopen the lid, pour the petrol in and replace the lid.

**14.** Once the petrol is in (and your hive is bee proof), you can call it a night and return to deal with it tomorrow.

**15.** The equipment is still infectious for AFB, so do not let bees access it when you sort it out and store it. The frames, dead bees and any old equipment can be disposed of by burning and then burial of the remnants under at least 30cms of soil. Please DO NOT put them in the garbage bin! Do not hose down equipment before packing it for irradiation as that spreads spores around. Once irradiated, hive materials will be safe to reuse.

**NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer Rod Bourke can be contacted on 0438 677 195 or [rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au)**



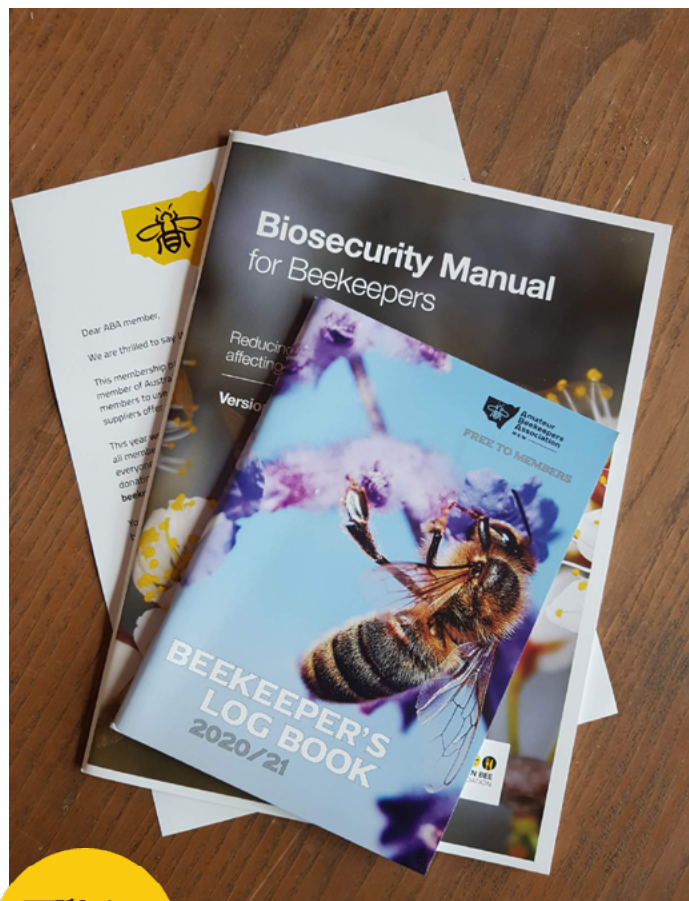
## MEMBERSHIP

# Welcome pack

## Cards, log books and biosecurity manuals: direct to members

**N**EW MEMBERS receive a membership pack in the mail. It is sent to the address entered in the online membership system. Along with a blue ID card, we enclose a new version of the ABA Beekeeper's Log Book and a copy of the Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers. This 64-page publication is packed with information to help identify and deal with bee pests and diseases.

The ABA thanks the NSW State Advisory Group of the National Bee Biosecurity Programme for a contribution towards printing costs of the manual.



**Amateur  
Beekeepers  
Association  
NSW**

### CLUB NETWORK

For details of our network of 29 affiliated clubs across NSW and beyond, check out [beekeepers.asn.au/find-a-club](http://beekeepers.asn.au/find-a-club)

In normal times, many clubs welcome ABA members from a different region as visitors, so it's worth checking the calendar of events listed on many club web pages.

Know of beekeepers in an area not served by an existing club? We are always happy to hear from beekeepers wanting to start a new group. Information is available at [beekeepers.asn.au/affiliation](http://beekeepers.asn.au/affiliation)

## JOIN THE TEAM

The ABA is run by a team elected onto the executive each year at the AGM.

Are you interested in stepping forward to help the ABA?

We are particularly keen to hear from members with skills in finance, accounting, administration or promotions.

To find out more, or to volunteer to help in any small or larger-scale tasks that crop up from time to time, please drop us a line at [feedback@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:feedback@beekeepers.asn.au) and we will be happy to chat about the opportunities coming up.



ABA Member

## MEMBERSHIP Q&A

**ABA FEE: \$30**

**CLUB FEE: SET BY YOUR LOCAL CLUB**

**OPTIONAL INSURANCE: \$20**

### "WHEN'S MY NEXT RENEWAL DUE?"

*Memberships and insurance purchased now carry through to 30 June, 2021.*

### "WHY DO I NEED TO PAY AN ABA FEE AND A SEPARATE CLUB FEE?"

*Affiliated clubs are independent associations and decide their own fees. The ABA collects club fees on behalf of clubs via a centralised membership register.*

*The ABA fee is retained by the ABA to fund its activities supporting clubs and amateur beekeepers.*

*The two fees are currently listed separately so that members can choose to join multiple clubs and pay only one set of ABA fees.*

### "HOW DO I CHANGE CLUBS?"

*If you are already a member of an ABA club, email [membership@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:membership@beekeepers.asn.au) with details of the other ABA club you wish to join. We will send you details of the fees due to the new club. Unexpired club membership fees are not refunded.*

## ABA CONTACTS

# 2019 EXECUTIVE TEAM



**SHEILA STOKES**

[web@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:web@beekeepers.asn.au)

ABA acting president Sheila is a web development professional who builds, maintains and supports all ABA IT infrastructure. She is also president of Hawkesbury Beekeepers. "Lobbying is the way to ensure recreational beekeepers' voices are heard."

**LYALL ZWECK**

[treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au)

Lyall is president of Bega Valley Beekeepers and has also been that club's treasurer. During the day, he is the finance manager for a gallery in Alice Springs, and on the weekend cares for a dozen colonies. He sees his role as "making the money make sense."



**VINCE SCHNYDER**

[secretary@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:secretary@beekeepers.asn.au)

President of Northern Beaches Beekeepers and banker in a risk and compliance role, Vince likes the KISS principle: Keep It Simple Stupid.

His goal: "to simplify and streamline our processes so we have more time for beekeeping."

**BRUCE WHITE OAM**

[biosecurity@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:biosecurity@beekeepers.asn.au)

Bruce retired from NSW DPI as Technical Specialist Apiculture after 41 years' service, 20 years of it managing the Honey Bee Quarantine Station. He's an active member of Illawarra Beekeepers. "We all keep learning. I'm happy to pass my knowledge on."



**SUE CARNEY**

[editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:editor@beekeepers.asn.au)

Sue is a publishing professional with a lifelong fascination for bees. She is the founding president of Blue Mountains Beekeepers and keeps bees in Langstroth, Flow and Warré hives.

"Bees know it: cooperation and good communication are key."

**ANA MARTIN**

[ana.martin@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:ana.martin@beekeepers.asn.au)

Ana is vice president of Manning Valley club and a member of Hastings Valley. Ana started beekeeping as a hobby in 2015 and has since turned it into a full-time business. "Supporting beekeepers benefits us all, but also it benefits bees."



**DAVE WILSON**

[education@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:education@beekeepers.asn.au)

Dave is a former secretary of the ABA and has been on the committee of the Parramatta club since 2007. He has 15 bee hives in northwest Sydney.

Dave's motto: "Working hard has its own rewards."



**ARTHUR GARSKE**

[publicofficer@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:publicofficer@beekeepers.asn.au)

Arthur has 48 years' experience with bees and is a founding member of the Parramatta club. A successful honey exhibitor around the state, Arthur now judges at shows and events. "Detail and plain common sense go a long way in beekeeping."

## RUNNING THE ABA

The executive team is made up of volunteers who are elected at the AGM. They each take on a range of duties to represent members, provide services to individual members and clubs, and keep the organisation running smoothly.

Are you interested in standing for election at the next AGM?

This year's AGM has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be rescheduled and details announced once large face-to-face meetings can be held safely.

All ABA members will be invited and are eligible to vote. This is your association!