



**Amateur  
Beekeepers  
Association**  
NSW MID NORTH COAST

# The Bee Line

**Newsletter of the Mid North Coast Amateur  
Beekeeping Association**

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## February 2022 Newsletter MNCABA President's Report

Hello Everyone,

I think we all know someone who has had COVID, or perhaps you have had it yourself. Hopefully you are well and able to attend our next meeting on the 13th March. Details below.

Some members have reported that their hives have gone backwards, due to the temporary reduction in floral sources. I have noticed a number of commercial beekeepers have moved their hives from the coast to various locations on the Tablelands.

Small Hive Beetles are an issue and some have reported "slime outs". This occurs when the beetle/larvae numbers are so great that the hive becomes fouled. Rancid honey and debris ooze out the front and the surviving bees abscond. Not a pretty site!

If this has happened to you, all is not lost. Your boxes, base, lid, and excluder (Flow frames if you have them) can be washed up. The honey will be putrid so don't try to save it. You can make your own decision about trying to save frames. I don't think it is worth the effort, a fire is a good way get rid of them.

Preventing beetles taking over the hive is the key. The main thing is to keep your hives strong. You can research other strategies that will assist in SHB control, eg screened bottom boards, with tray, various traps containing diatomaceous earth or vegetable oil, Apithors (for use on solid bottom boards), sticky mats and so on.

SHB love warm moist conditions, exactly the conditions that the coast has experienced this year in particular.

SHB (and wax moth) can make their presence felt on your harvested frames if you drop your guard. Extract the honey asap. If you cannot do it for several days, put them in a freezer overnight to kill any eggs or larvae that may be on the frames. It is good practice to freeze frames before putting them back in the hive anyway

Regards,

Allan

### Next Meeting //

**Date:** Sunday 13 March 2022  
**Time:** 10 for 10:30am  
**Host:** Paul Campbell  
**Address:** Coffs Harbour Christian  
Community School  
226 Bonville Station Road  
BONVILLE  
**Contact:** Paul - 6653 4000  
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## Frank's Hive Hints // No 13

### MOODY BEES

Sometimes the bees in a hive can change their mood from day to day or even hour to hour. A normally quiet hive can become quite aggressive. There can be many reasons for this.

If your bees are near a cornfield they may obtain an abundant amount of pollen which is not very nutritious. They can collect so much that the combs can be filled within a week at the expense of brood. When pollen production ceases during the morning bees can become cranky. This can happen with other pollen sources too.

Citrus honey is very special and bees are attracted to the blossoms. During the day when the flowers dry out and the nectar flow stops bees can become aggressive – even hives that are usually quiet. This happens often.

Robber bees can cause stress to hives. They may come around when you open a hive at a time when there is little nectar.

The beekeeper can aggravate the bees. Watch your movements – slow and calm. Don't breathe heavily on the combs. Bees don't like the smell/fumes from petrol, perfume, scented soap, after shave or fertiliser.

Listen to the sounds bees make in the hive. They can indicate a mood. There are different sounds for contentment, swarm preparation and stress. Don't try to work with bees that are aggravated.

Acoustic devices are being used by researchers to listen to bait hives near major ports for signs of stress caused by Varroa mites. Be a good listener.

Love those bees.

What do bees write in their Valentine Cards?

Honey bee mine!

### Club Supplies // FOUNDATION AND APITHOR

Don Wood has our Club's supplies of Wax Foundation and Apithor SHB traps. Please contact him on 0418 112 516 or by email: [rabbित्रap2873@yahoo.com](mailto:rabbित्रap2873@yahoo.com)

The price of foundation is \$2.60 per sheet and Apithor small hive beetle traps are \$6.50.

Don is also the guardian of our two hive extractors that are available for loan to club members.