



**Amateur  
Beekeepers  
Association**  
NSW MID NORTH COAST

# The Bee Line

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

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## January 2022 Newsletter MNCABA President's Report

Hello Everyone,

It has been a shaky start to the New Year for many. Let's hope that we can make it a better year than 2021.

As there was no general meeting this month, your executive met on "Zoom" to touch base and to discuss any business arising.

The main issue is the ongoing COVID pandemic. We are now at the stage where most of us know someone who has it or has had it themselves. The numbers are expected to "peak" in the next three or four weeks, just in time for our next meeting!

Although we can all mask up and keep our distances, we felt that it is simply too big of an ask for anyone to host 40 odd members at their home, in these times. It is with regret that we have decided to cancel our February meeting and aim for a safer meeting in March.

We have in our account some "ABA grant money" which is earmarked for promotional material. You may have some ideas on how to use this money, but in the meantime our secretary, Monica, will investigate the acquisition and printing of some caps. More on this down the track.

Don reported that our supply of wax foundation is dwindling, so he will order more. Don't forget that he also has our extracting equipment for loan to members.

A "welcome to country" will be made at the start of future meetings in recognition to our indigenous and the land from which our bees gather their nectar and pollen.

After a terrific start to the season, many are noticing that their honey production is tapering off. In fact, some are reporting that their bees are consuming stores. Be aware of what is happening with the floral sources in your area and what is happening in your hives. Do not be too greedy when harvesting your honey.

**Next Meeting // March ~ details TBA**

**Our February meeting has been cancelled due to concerns regarding hosting responsibilities and expectations at this time.**

**We're always looking for meeting venues and welcome members to make contact and specify a month they would prefer.**

President: Allan Thomas 0428 712 587, [midnorthcoast.president@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:midnorthcoast.president@beekeepers.asn.au)  
Secretary: Monica Rich 0419 298 586, [midnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:midnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au)  
Treasurer: Merridy Huxley 0421 690 403, [midnorthcoast.membership@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:midnorthcoast.membership@beekeepers.asn.au)  
Vice Presidents: Matt Connell & Don Wood  
Membership Officer: Merridy Huxley  
Public Officer: Matt Connell & Don Wood  
Supply Officer: Don Wood 0418 112 516  
Newsletter Editor: Alison Beswick [midnorthcoast.editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:midnorthcoast.editor@beekeepers.asn.au)

Biosecurity Officer: John Carroll  
Social Media Officers: Monica Rich & Alison Beswick  
Librarian: Carina Kerr  
Ass.Librarian: Elsbeth Haenggi  
First Aid Officer: Paul McLeod



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On the point of honey, there have been a couple of reports of people buying honey which has fermented. The reason fermentation occurs is usually because there is too much moisture in the honey. It is important that the bees be allowed to ripen and cap the honey cells. They will cap the cells when sufficient moisture is evaporated off. A rule of thumb is to only harvest from frames which are at least 80% capped.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, there are a number of items in the club's trailer which are surplus to requirements. We shall try to sort it out and make the items available to members by tender.

Regards,  
Allan



LEFT // The new club executive was elected at the November AGM held at Coffs Beekeeping Supplies near the apiary gardens at the rear of their property. We received a positive write up in the local newspaper alongside this photo. John Carroll was taking the photo and should have been in it too!

RIGHT // Our December meeting was held at Merridy and Warren's place, in Glennifer, where John led an inspection that found the queen in a hive that had requeened itself, as well as noticing low honey reserves due to the recent wet weather.







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ABOVE // Members of the club who attended the Bunnings Christmas market enjoyed engaging with members of the public who were interested in knowing more about beekeeping. Highlights of our display included Don's frame of capped honey for observation, Monica's stunning candles, Judith's display of beekeeping equipment and books from Coffs Beekeeping Supplies. Thanks also to Judith for bringing her marquee and to Matt for delivering a lovey native bee club poster from Steve and Janet Fowler as we'd invited the local branch of the ANBA to join us for the event.

What did the bee in the sauna say to her friends?

Swarm in here!



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## RECIPE REVIEW

### *French Honey Loaf*

This recipe is from the new and revised edition of Doug Purdie's *Backyard Beekeeping*. The recipe was shared with members in a recent review of the book in the *The Amateur Beekeeper*, AUG/SEP 2021 edition, page 8.

The loaf is very flavoursome and has a lovey texture as a result of cooking at a low temperature of 120°C for over two hours.



## 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: [rabbitrap2873@yahoo.com](mailto:rabbitrap2873@yahoo.com)

The price of foundation is \$2.60 per sheet.

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.