Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW MANNING VALLEY

The Pollinator

August 2020

In this issue

2019/2020 Committee

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NAME OUR NEWSLETTER

And the winner is……

Scott Fletcher

The Pollinator

Thank you to all who submitted suggestions, and to all those who voted

Contributions for the next issue are welcome

Email to Robert (robertodibben@hotmail.com)

Your Club News

From the President

Hi All

August is when we have the first meeting after a two month winter break, but not this year. The mild winter and good rain has put us in a situation that looks very promising for a good spring and start to the honey season.

It's in August in when the colony starts to grow and the Queen gets active and starts laying. Many beekeepers in this area have been feeding their bees over the winter and will continue to do so into spring to enable the colony to get a strong start to the season.

Now is the time when we need to consider how we are going to manage the hive in the coming season. Re queening, do you need to re queen? How old is the queen? If you are replacing the queen, where are you going to get a queen from? You could also consider splitting the hive in September/ October, depending on conditions, if you want to grow your apiary. This of course can only be done if there is plenty of strong brood. You might also need to prepare to be able to accept a swarm if it becomes available and consider the equipment required.

Over the last three years we have been holding two day workshops for beginner bee keepers. Don't know if it will be happening this year, again, we will have to see where this Covid 19 takes us. It's a well-developed course that has a strong, hands on, practical component as well as covering bio security needs and hive management. The course has proven to be very beneficial to people new to beekeeping.

The virus crisis has turned everything upside down and no one knows how it is going to be resolved. I often hear myself saying "when we get back to normal" and I guess we will get back to some semblance of normality eventually, but it's not very likely to be this year. We will probably have to adapt to a new post Covid normal.

The challenge we have as a club is how to accommodate our (club members') needs. We do understand how important it is to meet and talk about bees, colony management, share ideas and solve problems, socialise and of course stay up to speed with the latest bio security issues and disease management.

Finally, the name for the newsletter, due to unprecedented popularity, is, **The Pollinator**. The name suggests cross pollination of ideas and interests, this name was put forward by Scott Fletcher. Thanks Scott, and thanks to all those who submitted entries and voted on their favourite

Sometime later in the year we will be having the Annual General Meeting. I have decided to not to put myself up for nomination for the next term so if anyone out there is interested in the position now is the time to think about it if you are considering putting your name forward for nomination.

Look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting. Robert D.

Meet our Members

This month we talk to Bob Pritchard, who knows all there is to know about Flow Hives

I put my money in the first round of fundraising for Flow Hive, got the hive in 2015 and then finally in early Spring 2016 bought two nucs from Charlie Fuller. I've never looked back and never been happier than working a hive or collecting a swarm or cutout. I was a bit nervous on my first swarm and the first cutout, but luckily all went smoothly.

I've gone from two to six flow hives by splitting and collecting swarms and cutouts over the past few years. Lost one in the bushfires up near Strathcedar – I was there to collect it, the fire went past so I left it, and overnight the wind changed and the fire took it out.

The Flow super is very easy to work with. I can open one or more frames on a hive, collect the honey in a food grade bucket, filter and bottle it in 400gm or 800gm jars all within a few hours. And all that's left to clean is the bucket and the filter!

I've learned a lot about bees and flow hives by just getting out there and doing. Now I'm a Flow Hive Ambassador, so if you've got questions please ask at a meeting or by email:

bobpritchard@bigpond.com.

THINGS TO CONSIDER IN SPRING:

- Hive/Brood inspection
- Brood manipulation
- Creating space for expansion
- Re-queening
- Swarm control

BIOSECURITY CODE OF PRACTICE

From 1 July 2020 beekeepers are required to:

- Regularly inspect at least 3 frames of brood in every hive a minimum of twice per year to minimise the spread of pest and diseases,
- Record dates of inspections, observations and actions taken,
- Inspect at least one hive per apiary twice a year for the presence of arthropod pests (including Varroa mite and Tropilaelaps mites) by using one of the following methods:
  - a) Sugar shake
  - b) Alcohol wash
  - c) Drone uncapping.

STRENGTH OF HIVE

Even before you open the hive you should see a fair bit of traffic coming to and from the hive in good weather in the morning.

A strong hive will have an abundance of bees in the hive. In a strong hive the bees may spill out when you lift the lid off the hive and there will be plenty of bees on each frame. The brood comb should have plenty of nurse bees.

A strong colony will also be able to maintain the comb in the hive and defend it from pests such as hive beetle and wax moth.

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz. I wonder where the honey bees is? Well, here are a few!

Thanks to Vicki Grace for submitting these photos

STORES OF HONEY AND POLLEN

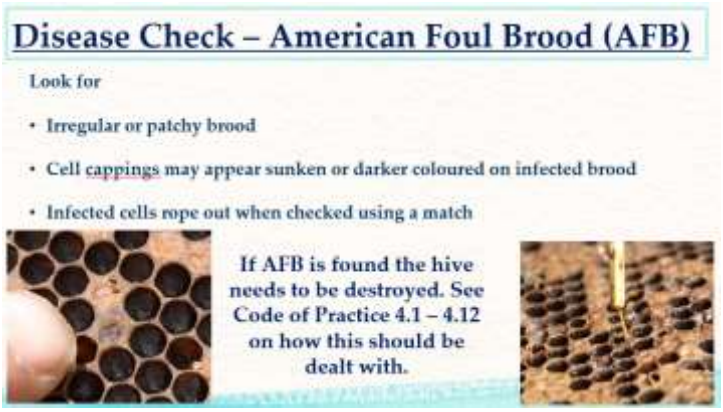
Check how much pollen and honey stores are in your hive. Watch the bees coming back to the hive. Are any bringing in pollen? A healthy hive will have good stores of pollen in at least 3 different colours.

AMOUNT OF BROOD

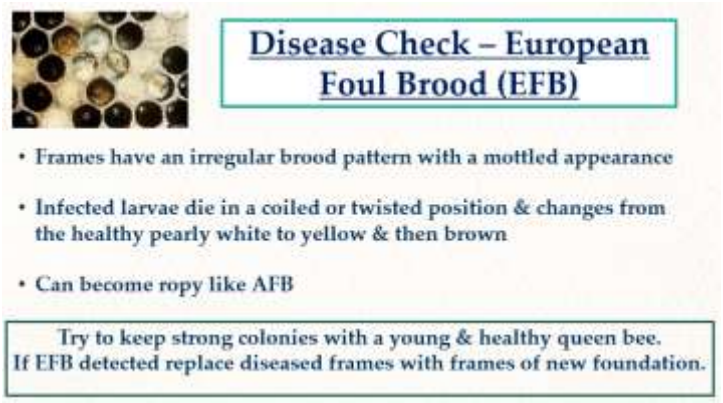
Is there still room in the brood box for the queen to lay eggs? Or have the workers filled all available cells with honey & pollen? You may need to make room for the queen.
Coming into spring you may find larger brood cells which will be drone comb. These mean the hive is preparing for an increase in breeding.

FOR DISEASE

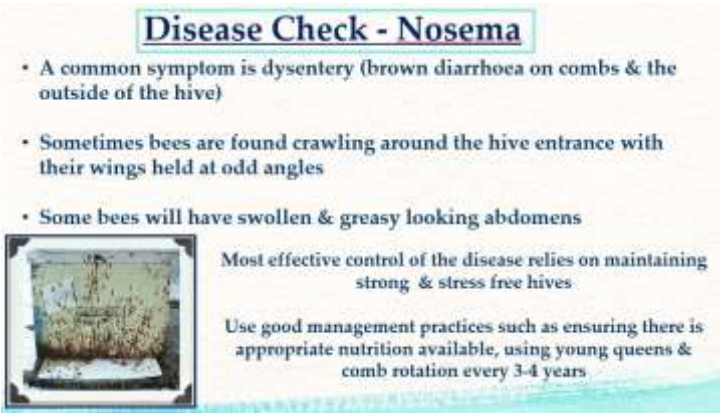
As mentioned above, from 1 July 2020 beekeepers are to regularly inspect at least 3 frames of brood in every hive a minimum of twice per year to minimise the spread of pest and diseases. Your first spring check of your hive is a great time to do the first of your checks for pest & diseases.



For more information:
https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66216/American-foulbrood.pdf
https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/558434/managing-afb.pdf



For more information:
https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/333388/European-foulbrood-and-its-control.pdf

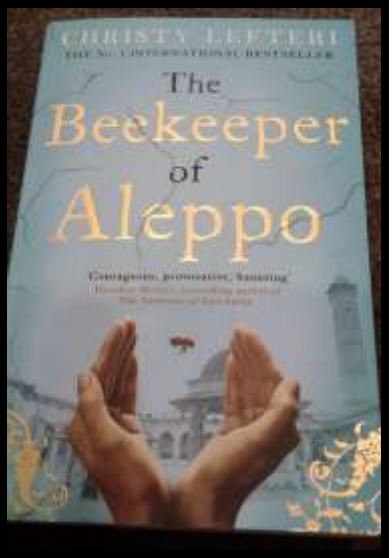


For more information:
https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0003/177519/nosema-disease.pdf

BOOK REVIEW

THE BEEKEEPER OF ALEPPO

By Christy Lefteri



In the midst of war-torn Syria, beekeeper Nuri and his wife Afra must flee Aleppo and make for safety in England, their happy memories of their life in their home city destroyed for ever.

The horrific scenes they witnessed, and their personal grief, have caused Afra, an artist, to lose her sight and she is totally dependent on Nuri to lead her on their perilous journey through Turkey and Greece, refugee camps and at the mercy of people smugglers.

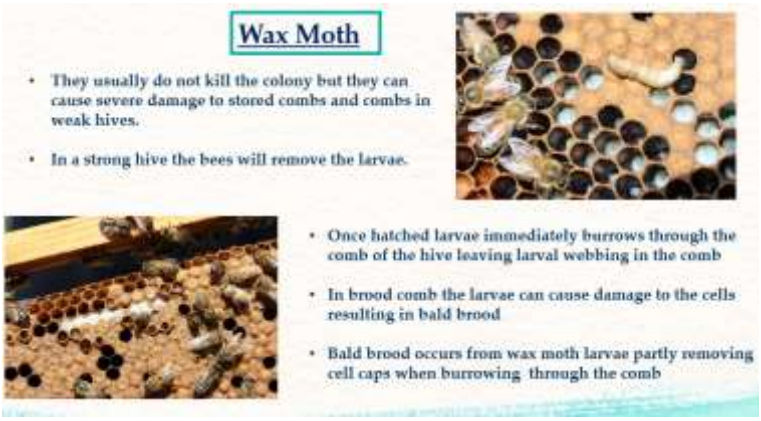
Nuri hides his own grief to care for Afra, and the only things keeping him going throughout their journey are his memories of his bees in Syria and his hopes of a happier future as a beekeeper in England.

This is a story of courage, hope and love nearly lost but found again. A great read.

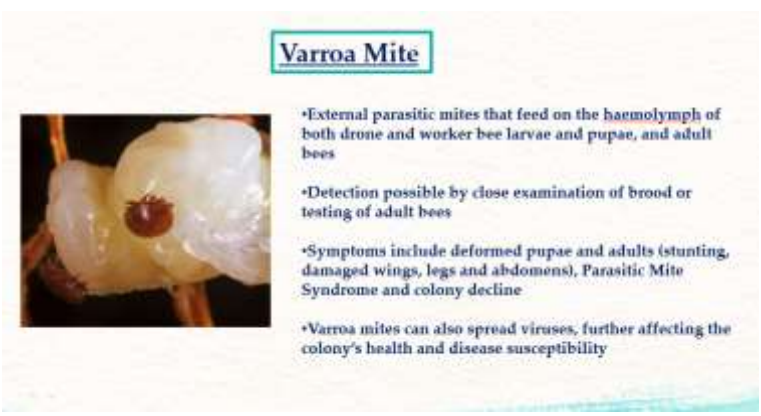
Pat Powell

For more information:
https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Chalkbrood-disease-FS.pdf
https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Sacbrood-virus-FS.pdf

For more information:
https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Small-hive-beetle-FS.pdf



For more information:
https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Greater-and-Lesser-wax-moth-FS.pdf



Please contact the Club if you require a Sugar Shake Kit. For more information:
https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/64965/Sugar-shaking-bees-to-detect-external-parasites-Primefact-153-final.pdf
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgMMetfQ9J0

Some Weird Bee Facts

THE KING WAS A QUEEN!
The queen was known as the king until the late 1660s, when Dutch scientist Jan Swammerdam dissected the hive's big bee and discovered ovaries.

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THE BEES KNEES
The term "bee's knees" was coined by American cartoonist Tad Dorgan, who was also responsible for "the cat's pajamas," "the flea's eyebrows," "the canary's tusks," and (apropos of nothing) "Yes, we have no bananas."

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WOW!
The buzz that you hear when a bee approaches is the sound of its four wings moving at 11,400 strokes per minute. Bees fly an average of 15 miles per hour.

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SPACE BEES
On the April 1984 Challenger flight, 3,300 bees, housed in a special but confining box, adapted perfectly to zero gravity and built a nearly normal comb. But they didn't go to the toilet. Since bees excrete only outside the hive, they held it in for seven days. A NASA spokesperson said the space hive was "just as clean as a pin."

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KILLER BEES
After he had pioneered the laws of genetics with pea plants, Austrian monk Gregor Mendel bred a strain of hybrid bees. Unfortunately, they were so vicious he had to kill them

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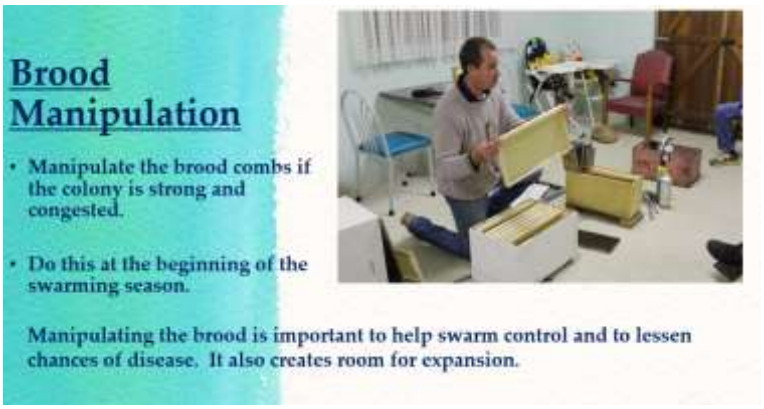
OLD BEES
Melittosphex burmensis, recently found preserved in amber in a mine in northern Myanmar, is the oldest bee known. It lived 100 million years ago.

Source: Discover Magazine "20 Things You Didn't Know About Bees"



For more information: Contact the club.

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This lovely Honey Syrup Cake recipe has been sent in by Merryn Gallucio, can't wait to try it!

Cake

3/4 cup (180ml) olive oil
1 1/2 cups (330g) caster sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup (140g) natural yoghurt
1/2 cup (180g) honey
2 cups (300g) self raising flour, sifted (N.B. I add 2 extra tsp sifted baking powder)

Honey Syrup

25g unsalted butter
3 tablespoons honey
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 tablespoons water

Preheat oven to 170˚C. Grease and flour a 25cm spring form cake tin. Whisk together olive oil and sugar in an electric mixer. Add the eggs and whisk for about 5 minutes, until the mixture is creamy, then whisk in the yoghurt and honey. Fold in the sifted flour by hand until just combined, be careful not to over mix otherwise the cooked cake will be heavy. Spoon the cake batter into the tin and bake for 50 minutes or until a skewer inserted in to the centre comes out clean. Remove the cake from the oven and place on wire rack. Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes. For the honey syrup, place all the ingredients in a small saucepan and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Leave to cool for 5 minutes. Make holes over the top of the cake using a wooden skewer then brush over the honey syrup. Serve at room temperature.