



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW MID NORTH COAST

The Bee Line

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

Join us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/Mid-North-Coast-Amateur_Beekeepers-Association-Inc-333496536672637

April 2021 Newsletter

MNC ABA President's Report

Thank you to Dennis and Marilyn for hosting our April meeting. It was a beautiful sunny day after several wet ones earlier in the week, so once again we struck gold.

It was great to see a good turn up which included about half a dozen new faces, some having travelled approximately 150kms to see what we do. Hopefully everyone was able to glean some new pointers and enjoy the contacts with like-minded friends. Sam from Bowraville related a recent incident where she experienced a suspected anaphylactic shock from a sting while at her clothesline. She has been stung countless times in the past, but this sting she described as very "different!", and now carries an EpiPen. The story has provided further impetus for activation of a plan that has been bubbling away behind the scenes for a while. Paul McLeod is a current trained First Aid Officer and has kindly volunteered to coordinate all things relating to first aid for the MNCABA. That means overseeing our kit, and being a resource to the Club and you our members. If anyone wishes to notify him of any medical condition that may impact on your attendance at our meetings, you are free to provide details to Paul who will maintain a confidential list to help in responding should an adverse event occur.

On that note, our thoughts are with some members who are suffering ill health at the moment. Also, condolences to Darren Barber's family, as Darren's father has recently passed away.

Our "model" for meetings works well, but it hinges on the extreme goodwill of members to offer their domain to hold them. Thanks in advance to Paul for offering his place at Diggers Beach for the next meeting - see details below in this newsletter.

I am unable to attend the next meeting. Our vice president, Matt Connell, will take the chair, assisted by Monica and Merridy.

Regards,
Allan

Next Meeting -

Date: 09 May 2021
Time: 10 for 10.30am
Host: Paul McLeod
Address: 6 Meadowlands Crescent
Coffs Harbour
Contact: Paul 0407 974 037

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Treasurer:
Vice Presidents:
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Ass.Librarian:

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Glen Locke
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**Tamworth Branch
NSW Apiarists'
Association Inc.**

**Saturday 22 MAY 2021 9AM – 4PM
Following NSW State Conference 2021**



**TAMWORTH JOCKEY CLUB
BRITTEN ROAD,
TAMWORTH NSW 2340**

**Gold Coin Entry
Under 18's Free
Public Welcome**



Beekeeping Field Day



Guest Speakers

From 10AM

Including

Rod Bourke - Bee Biosecurity
Officer from the DPI

An ask the experts session

with

Ray Hull - 3rd Generation
Beekeeper and Norm Maher - 45
years Beekeeping Experience.

Bring your Questions for this
interactive session



Meals & Refreshments

Meals and
refreshments are
available all day

CWA Bake Sale for
homemade sweets and
cakes



Expressions of Interest

Beekeeping Trade Exhibits

4 x 4 Equipment

Truck & Ute Displays

Material Handling Stands

General Market Stalls

For Stall bookings please contact Justin Wall. 0437690393. justin_wall@icloud.com



Department of
Primary Industries



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FRANK'S HIVE HINTS No 15 - Winter Preparation

Hives on the North Coast usually survive very well over Winter but need some preparation. Weather and food sources can be unpredictable. There are a few points to consider:

1. Check brood combs for signs of disease. Learn to recognise AFB and EFB. If unsure, ask for help.
2. Unite a weak but healthy colony with a strong one. Kill the queen in the weak hive and place the frames, in a super, on top of the strong one with a sheet of newspaper in-between.
3. Keep colonies compact in single or double boxes depending on population. Combs should be covered in bees.
4. Leave stores for bees. At least 3-4 combs of honey on the coast, more inland.
5. Remove surplus honey combs and extract them. Given back to bees, in a super, they will be licked clean in 24 hours then can be removed.
6. Remove supers of empty combs.
7. To store combs over Winter, refrigerate them for 24 hours then place in a moth-proof container.

LOVE THOSE BEES. *(from archive of Frank's Hive Hints by the late Frank Karabaic)*

INTRODUCING PAUL MCLEOD - MNCABA FIRST AID OFFICER

As mentioned above by Allan, Paul will be the face of first aid for the MNCABA. He will be responsible for keeping the first aid kit up-to-date; maintaining a voluntary register of Club members with special medical needs, and providing regular information updates on bee sting and other first aid issues. At some stage, Paul will also prepare recommendations for equipment that Club members should think about including in their beekeeping tool boxes.



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Links will appear in this newsletter to First Aid information videos and other useful resources, such as that outlined below. These form a two-part information piece on bee stings:

Part 1: Discussion about the best way to avoid bee stings. Watch video here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKUfFnWRtQs>

Part 2: The medical aspects of bee stings, including anaphylactic reaction to bee stings. Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2rxdelwkl0>



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It's Sugar Shake Month!

April is Sugar Shake Month, a joint initiative between NSW DPI, Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW, NSW Apiarists Association and the National Bee Biosecurity Program to promote awareness and surveillance for exotic bee mites in Australia.

During April, all beekeepers are encouraged to perform a sugar shake test and submit their results to the NSW DPI. This means we need all beekeepers to shake a little sugar.

Unsure on how to conduct a sugar shake test? Watch this [video](#).



NSW GOVERNMENT | Department of Primary Industries

BEE ALERT!

Not yet detected in Australia. Varroa mites reproduce on larvae and pupae in the brood. Mites also feed off adult bees, transmitting viruses, weakening the colony and resulting in death of the hive.




SHAKE, INSPECT
CALL IF YOU SUSPECT

BRAULA FLY (TOP), VARROA MITE (RIGHT), TROPILAELOPS MITE (BOTTOM)

Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW | Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881
For more information visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity-bees

Image credit (left): Food and Environmental Research Agency (Fera), Crown Copyright
Image credit (right): Scott Bauer, USDA

Steps involved in a sugar shake test:

1. Place a cup full of bees inside a container with a sieve built into the lid. Icing sugar is added to the bees and the container is gently rolled to coat all the bees in icing sugar.
2. Turn the container upside down over a bowl of water and shake gently. Any mites will be dislodged from the bees and will fall into the water. If present, the mites will float on the surface of the water and be easily seen.

(Source: *The Australian Beekeeping Manual* by Robert Owen)



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SOME SAMPLE LOGOS TO CONSIDER - COURTESY OF MONICA



*What do you think?
Let us know*



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CLUB SUPPLIES

Foundation and Apithor

Don Wood has our Club's supplies of Wax Foundation and Apithor SHB traps. Please contact him on pH: 0418 112 516 or by email: 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.



Total Field Days are back!

Our exhibitor sites are almost fully booked. The entertainment program is full to the brim and we can't wait to welcome all our visitors on **April 30, May 1 and 2.**

Online tickets are now available!

Three reasons to buy online

- No need to QR Code at the gate
- No queuing for a ticket
- Go in the draw to win a free helicopter joy flight at the event, we have three to give away

Adults and Seniors **\$18**, Children under 16 years **\$2**, Seniors get a discount on Friday **\$15**

To purchase tickets please visit our website www.tocalfielddays.com

Gates open 9 am

A wasp is nothing more than a wanna-bee!



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MEMBERS' NEWS



This is Glad Smith's new honey cart. Her husband Rick made it out of recycled timber from a demolished 100yr old house that was otherwise going to the tip. The biggest expense was the paint and the secondhand bicycle wheels. I think it is quite delightful and so too do her customers - well done!

FLOOD ASSISTANCE (INCLUDES APIARISTS)



Agricultural and Animal Services Hotline: 1800 814 647

DPI and LLS are providing assistance to landholders and communities with animal welfare-related issues resulting from the floods, including:

- Animal assessment and veterinary assistance
- Stock euthanasia and burial
- Emergency fodder and emergency stock water (where there is an immediate animal welfare concern)
- Livestock feeding and management advice
- Care of animals in evacuation centres

To request assistance, call the Agricultural and Animal Services Hotline on 1800 814 647



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NEXT MEETING

- Date:** 9 May 2021 - yes - it's Mothers Day!
- Time:** 10 for 10.30am start
- Location:** 6 Meadowlands Crescent,
Coffs Harbour NSW
- Hosts:** Paul McLeod pH: 0407 974 037
- BYO:** Chair, food, drinks, hat, bee protection gear, any outstanding library books.



Venue notes:

This is a suburban location in Diggers Beach. Plenty of parking is available on the streets nearby, but be prepared to walk a short distance if you're a late arrival. Look for the yellow & black balloons on the letterbox.

Once you've made it, follow the arrow signs down the left hand side of the house and into the backyard. Paul's hives are in a busy corner of the garden with room for maybe 6 or 8 people to gather around during the inspection, so we will split into groups if necessary.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES FOR OUR MEETINGS (current 26/03/21)

COVID-19 remains a risk, so we must continue to take responsibility in protecting one another when gathering for meetings. The following steps are to be followed as a consequence:

- If you feel unwell, and/or have symptoms, get tested and stay at home.
- When you arrive, use the hand sanitiser provided – often – and for a period of 20 seconds each time. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. If your hands are visibly soiled you need to wash with soap and water.
- Record your name and contact details in the book provided, using your own pen (just like you do when visiting cafes, restaurants, pubs). This is to allow for contact tracing if needed, and is vitally important to safeguard our friends, family and healthcare workers.
- Practice social distancing: you must stay 1.5m away from others. Feel free to wear a mask



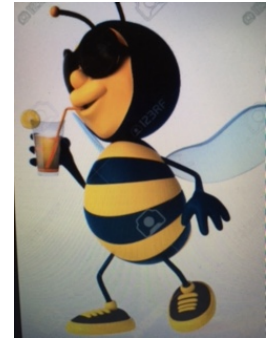
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RECIPE - BEE'S KNEES COCKTAIL FOR TWO

Ingredients: Juice of one medium lemon
100ml Gin
30ml Mid North Coast honey syrup (see below)
twist of lemon

Method: Fill a cocktail shaker with ice (or a jar with lid)
Pour in the honey syrup, lemon juice & gin
Securely fasten the lid & shake well until the liquid is very cold, about 30 seconds
Strain the drink into a martini glass (or any glass really)
Drop in the lemon twist
Enjoy!



Honey syrup: 65mls water Bring the water to a boil in a saucepan
1/2 cup MNC honey Add the honey & stir to dissolve
 Allow to cool.
Excess syrup can be stored in a jar or bottle in the fridge for up to 1 month

ADVERTISEMENTS

THE FOLLOWING CONTENT IS PROVIDED TO HIGHLIGHT BEEKEEPING SERVICES AND SUPPLIES AVAILABLE IN OUR REGION. IN ALLOWING SUCH ADVERTISEMENTS, WE AIM TO ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO MNCABA MEMBERS WHILE ALSO SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES. THE MNCABA ARE NOT, HOWEVER, ABLE TO SPECIFICALLY ENDORSE ANY OF THE OFFERINGS LISTED IN THIS SPACE.

Services and supplies

- Michael Worraker - Queen bees for sale: the current breeding stock available is Joe Horner Italian Breeder, Caucasian Breeder, artificially inseminated (AI) Cordovan & AI Italian Breeder queens. Queen cells & nucs will also be available. A new supply of Agrisea bee feed has also arrived. Ph: 0408 293 031
- Ross Wood - Mated queens and nucs (Grafton). Ph: 0421 817 710
- Steve Fowler - All manner of beekeeping equipment for sale. Steve and Janet usually turn up at meetings with a ute full of gear. To pre-order call 0418 412 621
- Glenn Locke - Mt Coramba Apiculture – One day beekeeping workshops and Flow-hive mentoring: www.oraravalleyhoney.com.au Ph: 0459 066 297
- Coffs Beekeeping Supplies – Ph: 0447 308 906. Judith Webster & Serge Golovin specialise in polystyrene beehives, and provide a wide range of hive wear, beekeeping tools & equipment www.coffsbeekeepingsupplies.com.au Ph: 0447 308 906. They have moved to new premises at 23 Cork Dve, Woolgoolga. M-F 8.30-5.30 Sat 9-1. Email: coffsbeekeepingsupplies@gmail.com
- Glenn Leet - Nucs and queen cells: glenn@inspiremenow.com.au Ph: 0428 536 021
- Steve Hayes - Little Star Bees - Nucs and hives plus native bee courses. Ph (02) 6564 8737