



**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

June 2021 Newsletter

MNCABA President's Report

Many thanks to Geoff Moule for hosting the June meeting at his Moonee Beach property. The sun was shining and it was just warm enough to do a quick hive inspection.

Don gave a report on his recent attendance at the Tamworth Beekeeping Conference. He presented some amazing figures pertaining to the American pollination industry. Millions of hives move from one mono-crop to the next mono-crop, and yet more hives are required. There is a high attrition rate. There was discussion around the use of pesticides that are finding their way into hive products, along with the use of paraffin in some imported wax foundation.

Monica initiated discussion about feeding bees. There are a number of methods available, some of which were demonstrated. At this time of year, feed 2:1 (sugar:water) if required.

The time has come to conduct our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Notice is given that this will occur at our August meeting, which is to be held at Matt Connell's. See further information below in this newsletter.

It is also time to renew your ABA membership. Add \$15 for our Mid North Coast Branch membership. There is also a voluntary Public Liability and Products insurance that you can take up at the time for \$15. I think this is a really worthwhile addition. If you are a new member, go on to the Amateur Beekeepers Association website and join up.

Kerry Shearer has offered their place on North Bank Rd for our July meeting (depending on COVID-19 restrictions). Our Supply Officer Don Wood hopes to demonstrate some of the Club's equipment which is available for short term loan to members.

Regards,
Allan

Next Meeting (subject to COVID-19)

Date: 11 July 2021
Time: 10 for 10.30am
Host: Kerry & Gary Shearer
Address: 925 North Bank Rd
Raleigh/Bellingen
Contact: Kerry 0437 608 008
Al Thomas 0428 712 587

President:
Secretary:
Treasurer:
Vice Presidents:
Membership Officer:
Public Officer:
Supply Officer:
Newsletter Editor:

Allan Thomas Ph: 0428 712 587, midnorthcoast.president@beekeepers.asn.au
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Matt Connell; Don Wood
Merridy Huxley
Monica Rich
Don Wood Ph: 0418 112 516
Andrea Stafford
midnorthcoast.editor@beekeepers.asn.au

Biosecurity Officer:
Social Media Officer:
Librarian:
Ass.Librarian:

John Carroll
Glen Locke
Carina Kerr
Elsbeth Haenggi



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HAPPY SNAPS FROM JUNE MEETING



THANKS GEOFF!

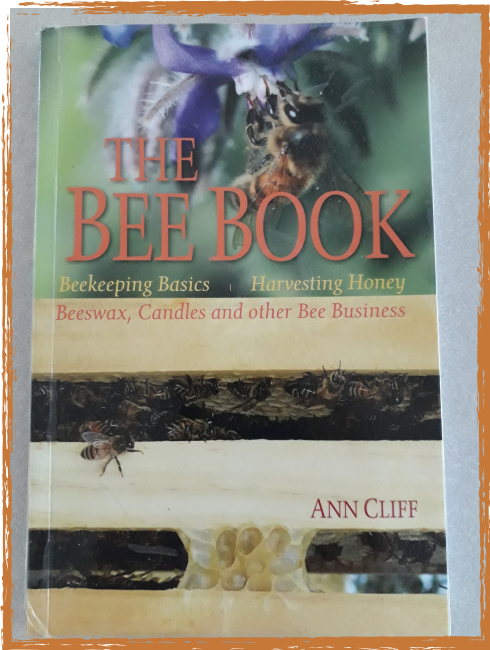


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LIBRARY BUZZ by Carina Kerr (your MNCABA Librarian)

The Bee Book: Beekeeping basics, harvesting honey, beeswax, candles and other bee business
By ANN CLIFF



A good general all-round book by beekeeper Ann Cliff, who speaks from experience about beekeeping on her 80 hectare farm in Gippsland Victoria.

MNCABA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) - AUGUST 2021

The meeting after next will be our AGM, where all MNCABA positions will become vacant, and new nominations called for. The current office-bearers are:

President:	Allan Thomas
Secretary:	Monica Rich
Treasurer:	Merridy Huxley
Vice-Presidents:	Matt Connell, Don Wood
Membership Officer:	Merridy Huxley
Publicity Officer:	Monica Rich, Andrea Stafford
Supply Officer:	Don Wood
Biosecurity Officer:	John Carroll
Social Media Officer:	Glen Locke
Librarian:	Carina Kerr
Assistant Librarian:	Elsbeth Haenggi
Newsletter Editor:	Andrea Stafford

If you are keen to become actively involved in your local Club, this is your chance!



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FRANK'S HIVE HINTS No 17

At this time of the year you may see rows of bee hives close to the beach on the coastal heath. These areas of low growing bushes on sandy soil are very beneficial to bees. They are mostly native plants like banksia, bottlebrush and pea flowers. The sites are dry and sunny. Hives build up very strongly by Spring and are ready to be moved to a honey flow.

A well drained, dry, sunny site is important, specially in Winter. A wind break is also helpful. Hives can be relocated slowly over a short distance by moving them ½ metre every day. They can also be turned gradually in a different direction.

Swamp Mahogany is flowering now and bees love it because of the nectar and pollen. That is good if the weather is fine but if it is rainy bees will find it difficult to evaporate the nectar, particularly when hives are in a cold, damp, shady position. This stressful situation can lead to Nosema infection. It is a disease of adult bees and will shorten their lives so weakening the colony and preventing it expanding in Spring. It can also lead to early supercedure of the queen. You may see numbers of crawling bees with extended abdomens outside the hive and spotting on the front wall of the box. The best solution is to keep hives well ventilated and dry.

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

FREE BEEKEEPING SEMINAR by Coffs Beekeeping Supplies

Due to overwhelming demand
our **FREE**
**Introduction to
Beekeeping
Workshop** 
is on again!

When: Saturday 10 July
Time: 1:30 – 3:30
Where: 23 Hawke Drive
Woolgoolga NSW
Presenter: Allan Thomas
RSVP: 0447 308 906



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ABA AND MNCABA 2021/2022 MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

As Allan mentioned in his opening missive, 2021/22 membership fees for the Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW and the MNCABA are now due. The 2021/22 membership period runs until 30 June 2022.

Just a reminder that the total amount payable is made up of several components. When you log in to make your payment you will see a clear breakdown of the components of your fees:

- 2021/22 ABA membership
- 2021/22 affiliated club membership
- optional insurance

To maintain membership of the MNCABA you must pay both the club fee and the ABA fee. If either component is not paid, your part payment will be refunded and you will be asked again to pay both components. If not done, your membership will lapse.

Check your address

Once your fees are paid the ABA will send your 2021/22 Member Pack by post to the address on your member record. Please make sure you provide them with a **valid, current postal address** - not the location of your hives.

You can access your online account at any time via the [ABA website \(beekeepers.asn.au\)](http://beekeepers.asn.au), or by clicking here: <https://app.loveadmin.com/Login/D2AB9E7AECE0D5B7F34524B9DF66AB3A.htm>.

Insurance

Click the buttons on the left of the payments screen if you wish to purchase **optional insurance**.

Help

If you still need help contact **Ana Martin** on membership@beekeepers.asn.au or **Lyll Zweck** on treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au.



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AMERICAN FOULBROOD DISEASE (AFB)

Since there have been recent notifications from the ABA of American foulbrood disease across various areas on the Mid North Coast, it seems pertinent to review what it is and what it means for the beekeeper.

AFB is a bacterial disease that attacks larvae and pupae. It is the most serious brood disease in Australia and is notifiable (ie. you are legally obliged to notify authorities if your hive is infected).

How it is spread: Bees drifting from hive to hive, feeding non-irradiated products to bees, using infected equipment among different hives.

What it looks like:

- Scattered, irregular brood
- Infected brood usually die after being capped, and capping can be discoloured, punctured and sunken
- Infected brood will change colour to dark brown as the disease progresses, and may show a ropy consistency up to 3-5cm long when probed with a matchstick.

How it is diagnosed: Laboratory analysis.

Treatment: Unfortunately the infected bee colony must be killed, and contaminated equipment including hives and frames burnt or sterilised using gamma irradiation.

How to minimise it: Good management practices, regular checks for the disease, and destroying or irradiating hives when the disease is confirmed.

Further information is available from the DPI, beekeeping textbooks and online. An excellent YouTube video featuring Doug Somerville from the DPI about identifying AFB is available at: <https://youtu.be/v2Aa56jut7Y>

BEES IN THE NEWS

- A team of scientists at Cornell University in the US have developed pollen-sized pills that carry an antidote to organophosphates - a popular type of insecticide used by farmers against herbivorous pests. The study has been conducted on bumblebees, yet expansion to include use in honey bees is possible as they have a similar stomach pH. There is also potential to apply the technology to other types of pesticides. (Source: Inside Science, June 2021, available from: <https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/pollen-sized-pills-protect-bees-pesticides/story?id=78375629>).
- A trial is being conducted at the Port of Melbourne where sentinel hives are located to detect varroa mite coming in on bees via container ships. New purple hives (bees' favourite colour) are fitted with 360 degree cameras and AI that photograph every bee that enters. An algorithm helps to identify aberrations in a bee's appearance and sends immediate alerts if anomalies are detected. Amazing! (Source: ABC <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-29/ai-technology-used-to-protect-bees-from-pests/100035134>).



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NEXT MEETING (depending on COVID-19 restrictions: see below)

Date: 11 July 2021

Time: 10 for 10.30am start

Location: 925 North Bank Rd
Raleigh/Bellingen NSW

Host: Kerry & Gary Shearer pH: 0437 608 008

Cost: \$5

Raffle: Donations for the raffle table warmly welcomed.

BYO: Chair, food, drinks, hat, bee protection gear, any outstanding library books.

Directions: **From Bellingen:** cross Lavender Bridge going north. Turn right at the roundabout into Wheatley St, follow this road which becomes North Bank Rd for about 9.25 km, turn left at No. 925 & follow the bitumen drive to the house at the top.
From Coffs Harbour: Follow the Pacific Highway south. After the stone 'koala crossing tunnel' turn off the highway into Keevers Drive, Repton. Follow this road south which runs parallel to the highway, turn right into North Bank Rd, follow this road for approximately 3km. Turn right into the drive of 925.
From south of Bellingen: Follow the Pacific Highway north. Do not take Bellingen turnoff but continue until the Repton exit, take that exit - Mailman's Track - turn right at the roundabout, cross over the highway, turn right into Keevers Drive at the next roundabout. Travel in a southerly direction towards Raleigh, parallel to the highway until you reach North Bank Rd. Turn right into North Bank Rd & travel about 3km, then turn right into the drive of 925.

COVID-19 UPDATE 29/06/21

Current restrictions on household gatherings are limited to 5, which means our meeting scheduled for 11 July is dependent on events between now and then. An update will be sent out closer to the time.

STOP PRESS!



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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: rabbittrap2873@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.

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 have moved to the Woopi Bee Shed at 23 Hawke Dve Woolgoolga, where they now stock NuPlas hives, Paradise Polystyrene hives & wooden hives, as well as a wide range of stands, suits & protective gear, hive tools & equipment, supplements including mineral bee, and bee-themed gifts. www.coffsbeekeepingsupplies.com.au 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

Why are bees good at job interviews?

Because they know all the buzz-words