



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW MID NORTH COAST

The Bee Line

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

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May 2021 Newsletter

MNCABA Vice-President's Report

Our May meeting was held at Paul McLeod's at Diggers Beach - thanks Paul for being the host.

It was a nice sunny day for Mothers' Day and the bees, and we hope the mothers in the group enjoyed their day!!

We welcomed some new members & visitors (some all the way from Tassie and it's not even winter yet).

We discussed the Tamworth field day – car pooling, which members were interested in attending and travel reimbursements available.

The winners of the silent auction of the Club's flow hive were Meryl Dunton-Rose and Graeme Pauley. The Anderson family from Byron Bay had provided the club with the flow hive to educate new backyard beekeepers on its use. The Club also included information about the importance of understanding the required biosecurity which all beekeepers need to abide by.

Thanks to Don, assisted by Michael, for doing the hive inspections - being on the coast in this climate there is no real winter. The hives had a lot of capped honey which needed extracting and a sugar shake was done with nothing found.

Thank you again to Monica for keeping me on track throughout the meeting.

Regards,
Matt - Vice President

Next Meeting -

Date: 13 June 2021
Time: 10 for 10.30am
Host: Geoff Moule
Address: 78 Overlander Rd
Moonee Beach
Contact: Geoff 0447 820 744
Al Thomas

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HAPPY SNAPS FROM OUR MAY MEETING



Top left & bottom right: A good turn out in a beautiful setting.

Top right: Meryl & Graeme receiving their Flow Hive.

Middle: Preparing for a sugar shake.



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FRANK'S HIVE HINTS No 16

Bees sometimes do things beyond human imagination. It doesn't matter how much knowledge you have. It can happen any time of the year. You open the hive where everything looks normal. It is well populated with the queen laying normally. The brood looks normal. Before you finish examining the combs you find one comb with a couple of occupied queen cells with queens ready to emerge. They are not swarm cells that usually appear on frame edges. What is the reason? The bees know something better than you. They want to replace the queen though all seems normal. Why? They know that the queen will stop laying, she is too old, sick or injured. If you destroy the queen cells they will build new ones straight away. If that happens, leave them alone for a couple of weeks and let nature take its course. Check again. You may be surprised to find two queens laying in the same box, mother and daughter side-by-side. Eventually in a couple of weeks the old queen will disappear.

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

TAMWORTH BEEKEEPING FIELD DAY REPORT by Allan Thomas

The Tamworth Field Day followed the Apiarist's Association Conference, which was also attended by a few of our members as well. There were approximately 20 trade stall holders exhibiting their products or representing their companies. The day was more informal than past events because of COVID-19 and the change of venue to the racecourse buildings.

DPI Biosecurity Officer, Rod Bourke, was present and chatted to visitors rather than doing a formal presentation.

Many of us were pleased to catch up with old acquaintances and meet new beekeepers as well. Guess what the topics of conversations were about!

Both commercial and amateur beekeepers were catered for. MNCABA member, Judith from Coffs Harbour Beekeeping Supplies, set up a stall and also attended the conference with Don and Matt. Dale joined in for the conference dinner.

Of particular interest to me was a company selling Innovative Hive Systems and Small Hive Nematodes. The nematodes are microscopic worms which attack pupating small hive beetles (SHB) in the soil around the hives. Remember, the SHB larvae exit the hive and burrow into the soil to pupate.

We may talk more about this at the next meeting.

Regards,
Allan



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FREE BEEKEEPING SEMINAR



THINKING ABOUT GETTING INTO BEES?
HOW TO GET STARTED & WHAT IS
INVOLVED

- When?** Saturday 12 June 2021
1.30pm - 3.30pm
- Where?** 23 Hawke Drive
Woolgoolga NSW
- Facilitator** Allan Thomas
- Hosts** Judith & Serge
- RSVP** 0447 308 906

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.

BEEES IN THE NEWS

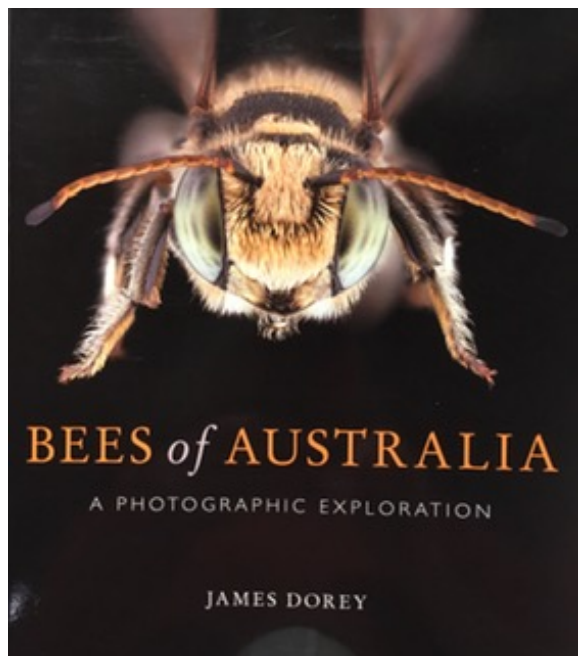
As many of you probably know, bees are covered with little hairs designed to collect particles along their busy way - particularly pollen but also plant debris and other unintentional bits and pieces. Recent research in Denmark has discovered that alas, airborne microplastics have been found on honey bees - in fact 13 different polymers (Source: National Geographic May 2021).



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MNCABA LIBRARY BUZZ



This beautiful book was published in 2018, at which time the author and photographer was a PhD student investigating the evolution, taxonomy and ecology of Australian native bees. The photography is breathtaking, and the enthusiasm palpable for these supermodels in the accompanying text. It will turn bird twitchers into bee watchers.

**Borrow it now and you'll
bee amazed.**

NEXT MEETING

Date: 13 June 2021

Time: 10 for 10.30am start

Location: 78 Overlander Rd
Moonee Beach NSW

Host: Geoff Moule pH: 0447 820 744

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

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES FOR OUR MEETINGS (current 24/05/21)

Believe it or not, COVID-19 remains a risk so we must continue to take responsibility for 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. 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.



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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