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 Macarthur-
 Beekeepers-
 Association

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The Macarthur

Views expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the committee, the members, or the Association

President's Message - Caroline

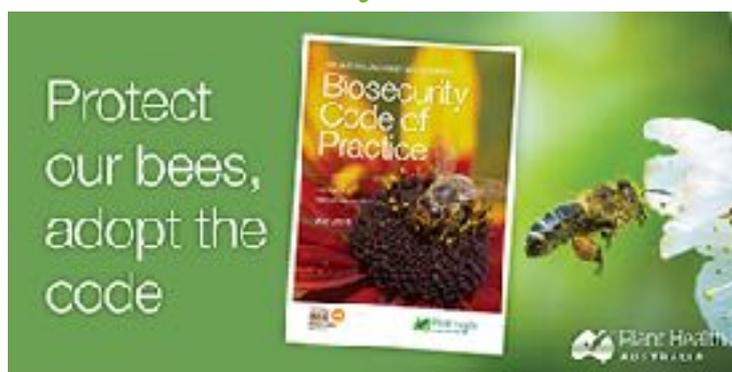
Dear Beekeepers,
 From sunshine to rain, and back to sunshine. The bees are going crazy at my place. What's wrong with the flowers? Why now? I was hoping that all would flower in spring. I have hardly arrived home before I left again for Queensland and then to Melbourne. In my travels, the website appeared before me and I must thank Ed and Sheila for setting it up. Now we must use it and send Ed articles that can be used there and Facebook. Also don't forget Christine as she also needs articles.
 Thank you to Jessie, Michael and Sandra for holding the fort last month.
 Don't forget to use the cooler weather to do necessary maintenance of your hives and equipment.
 See you at the meeting.
 Regards
Caroline

Bee Informed ... *member contributions/research articles*

A good reminder ...

<http://beeaware.org.au/archive-news/ten-reasons-the-biosecurity-code-of-practice-is-good-for-the-honey-bee-industry/>

Ten reasons why the Code of Practice is good a thing



The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity sets requirements for beekeepers that provide a framework for implementing biosecurity best practices.

The Code is part of the and was developed by (AHBIC) in collaboration with state and federal governments.

Recently, Peter McDonald, the Chair of AHBIC, shared ten reasons why the Code is good for beekeepers and the industry.

1. Lifts the standard of endemic pest and disease control

“The requirements for beekeepers under the Code lift the standard of endemic pest and disease control to a satisfactory minimum level,” said Mr McDonald.

For example, under the Code hives must be regularly inspected for pests and diseases.

Requirements like this ensure that the practices of Australian beekeepers incorporate fundamental biosecurity principles.

2. Ensures new beekeepers will have appropriate pest and disease control

Since the Code was developed there has been a massive increase in new beekeeper numbers. The requirements of the Code mean that new beekeepers will have appropriate pest and disease control.

“Having this program in place will mean that they will be operating at a minimum standard in minimum time,” said Mr McDonald.

“This is essential as a major concern for established apiarists was the lack of pest and disease control abilities of new beekeepers.”

3. Makes additional resources available

“The National Bee Biosecurity Program, of which the Code is a part, makes additional resources available in the form of Bee Biosecurity Officers in each state,” said Mr McDonald.

The Bee Biosecurity Officers provide essential biosecurity services as well as promoting and implementing the Code.

4. Makes exotic pest testing a requirement

“The Code incorporates exotic pest testing as part of the requirements,” said Mr McDonald.

Testing for exotic pests is essential to find and identify them early and maximise the chance of eradication.



News Alert News Alert!!

Club members and visitors!!!

The Macarthur Beekeepers Association new web site is up and running!!!!

Additional content will continue to appear as the site is developed.

Witness its development by visiting:

<https://sites.google.com/beekeepers.asn.au/macarthur>

5. Supports the early detection of exotic pests and diseases

Under the Code beekeepers must regularly inspect their hives for pests and diseases and are given guidance on how often this should be done.

“It is essential to educate beekeepers what to look for so that we can identify the pest early and maximise the chance of eradication,” said Mr McDonald.

6. Promotes good record keeping

The Code obliges all beekeepers to keep legible records of biosecurity related actions and observations.

“Good records are essential to trace the source of the pest or disease quickly and effectively,” explained Mr McDonald.

“In addition, in the event of an eradication attempt and the destruction of hives, good records will enable speedy compensation to be paid to professional beekeepers.”

7. Educates and prepares beekeepers for exotic pests

“The Code is being publicised widely and incorporates exotic pest responsibilities and, in the process, beekeepers are being educated about exotic pests,” said Mr McDonald.

“A major recommendation from all countries who have had to deal with an exotic pest incursion that affects bees is that it is vital beekeepers are educated about the pest prior to arrival.”

“This also allows for easier transition to management if it is unable to be eradicated.”

8. Creates accountability

As well as introducing requirements that ensure the actions of beekeepers are biosecurity best practice, other measures

like registration and assessment encourage compliance and accountability.

9. Provides a platform for the removal of Interstate Health Certificates

“When the Code is fully implemented all beekeepers will be adhering to a common standard of disease control,” said Mr McDonald.

This should remove the necessity to obtain Interstate Health Certificates in the future and facilitate cross border transport within Australia, which is an aim of the program.

10. Brings the industry a step close to a quality assurance program

The Code brings the industry a step closer to having a quality assurance (QA) program.

“The honey bee industry needs more people in QA to ensure that Australia can keep exporting a quality product and command premium prices,” explained Mr McDonald.

~ **contributed by Michael** from

<http://beeaware.org.au/archive-news/ten-reasons-the-biosecurity-code-of-practice-is-good-for-the-honey-bee-industry/>

From Jerry Coleby-Williams webpage June 18th 2019

NSW has ten million less bees thanks to fipronil, a widely used farm insecticide. "One drop of this poison from one bee that takes it back to the hive will then kill the whole hive," says Mr Ian Carter, one of five apiarists affected.

According to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines

Authority (APVMA) - the government chemical regulator which depends on funding from the sale of poisons - fipronil sits alongside glyphosate as one of the safest, most dependable poisons.

"In June 2011, the APVMA released the component assessment reports for fipronil along with the Preliminary Review Findings Report. This includes the toxicology, occupational health and safety and animal safety reports.

The environment component assessment report is yet to be released."

This poison has been banned in the USA, it's been banned in Europe in 45 different countries and the main reason for that is that it kills bees, which is why the APVMA has failed to release the environmental impact report for eight consecutive years. From <https://www.abc.net.au/.../apiarist-calls-for-fipron.../11216968>

Five Steps for Handling Your Honey Bees

This website (often highlighted on our Facebook page) again gives some great advice, this time for those who are new to beekeeping...

After inspecting your new colony (perhaps purchased in spring), check the Queen bee has released from cage you purchased it in; if not, manually release her. And remember, honeybees are gentle for the most part and are only interested in doing their jobs.

Step one. Suit up - mentally. If wearing a bee suit makes you feel more secure, then wear one.

Step two "Approach the bee hive from the back. If you approach from the front guard bees will see you and may fly out to greet you by flying into you. They want to see what kind of reaction you'll have. They may sting if they see you flail your arms and start swatting at them. That's a dead give away to your bees that you are indeed a threat. If you can ignore them it is better. "

Step three: The bee smoker is an important safety item to protect you when you work with bees. Dried pine needles are often recommended to provide cool smoke. When you lift the cover listen to your bees. If you hear a noticeable "buzz" getting a bit louder after a few seconds, you might need to puff a little.

Step four: Move gently and gracefully. Calmness is contagious.

Step five: If you get a sting. Puff a little smoke right on the sting; not to make it feel better but to mask alarm pheromones released. It should prevent further stings in that area.

Read more at <https://www.keepingbackyardbees.com>



~ Contributions by Christine.

Some holiday snaps - Christine

- Bay of Islands, New Zealand





Beehives ... or.... letter boxes!!!



And in Japan...In a major Tokyo department store



In a small town ...



Apiary Goings on ..Torsten & Ricarda

Lots of people turned up to the club's apiary for our July Field Day. We did some Questions and Answers and talked about winter preparation. In the process Torsten showed different ways of assembling boxes and frames. The kids had a great time putting eyelets into the frames! Everyone else put great effort into assembling boxes and frames, we even managed to wire some frames, so next field day we will continue with the good work. We will also show people how to put foundation into the frames. Photos of field day below.





Comb Honey

During my travels in NZ I came across a market where a beekeeper was selling round honey combs. It looked beautiful and it was something I had never seen. The beekeeper told me it was made by the bees using a Ross frame. Fascinating!



After harvesting each “round” a plastic see-through lid and a base is added! Comb honey is how honey was most often consumed before the use of extractors. Photos from internet (couldn't find mine!). ~ *Christine*



Remember Honey Jumbles?!!!
See recipe below from Pinterest/
Donna Hay:



Honey and Ginger jumbles:

INGREDIENTS

40G UNSALTED BUTTER,
CHOPPED

½ CUP (175G) HONEY

1 CUP (150G) PLAIN FLOUR,
SIFTED

½ TEASPOON BICARBONATE
OF SODA

1 TEASPOON GROUND
GINGER

1 TEASPOON GROUND
CINNAMON

1 TABLESPOON FINELY
GRATED ORANGE RIND

1 TABLESPOON MILK

ICING

2½ CUPS (400G) ICING SUGAR,
SIFTED

1 TEASPOON HONEY

¼ CUP (60ML) BOILING WATER

1 TEASPOON GROUND
GINGER

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 160°C. Place the butter and honey in a small saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a simmer, reduce heat to low and cook for 2 minutes. Allow to cool slightly.
2. Place the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger, cinnamon, orange rind, milk and butter mixture in a bowl and mix well to combine. Refrigerate for 20–30 minutes.
3. Roll 2 teaspoons of dough into 8cm logs and place on large baking trays lined with non-stick baking paper, allowing room to spread. Cook for 10–12 minutes or until light golden. Allow to cool slightly before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.
4. To make the icing, place the icing sugar, honey and water in a bowl and whisk until smooth. Spread biscuits with icing, sprinkle with ginger and set aside for 10–15 minutes or until icing has set. **Makes 16**

Meetings & Events

July 2019

12th - Newsletter published

17th - 7:30pm Club Meeting

August 2019

4th - Field Day 10 am

16th - Newsletter published

21st- 7:30pm Club Meeting

September 2019

1st- 10 am Field Day

13th- newsletter published
18th - 7:30pm Club Meeting

October 2019

6th - 9am Field Day
11th- Newsletter published
16th - 7:30pm Club Meeting

November 2019

3rd- 9am Field Day
15th - Newsletter published
20th - Christmas dinner get together (instead of a meeting)

CLASSIFIEDS and SPONSORSHIP

Club Shirts
Contact Jessie or Michael at the next meeting
With Name \$65
Without Name \$60

Club Member Advertising:
Short line with phone nos. = Free
Size up to 60mm by 40mm (one per member)= Free

(Non member =\$10/per month)
Renew ad each month. Provide artwork
editor@macbeekeepers.asn.au

Club equipment for member use.
The following equipment is available for use by members:
2 frame manual extractor.
Electric uncapping knife
Cappings draining tray set.

Please contact Michael or Jessie via email
treasurer@macbeekeepers.asn.au or
secretary@macbeekeepers.asn.au

Or Michael on 0429368353 or Jessie on 0409845625.

All equipment must be returned in a clean condition ready for the next user.

Club Honey
Now available in 500gm
1 kg Tubs Contact Jessie on 0409845625

Thank you to our sponsors:



2 Queen St, Campbelltown, NSW 2560
Ph: 02 46267022
Trading Hours: 8.30am - 5.00pm

