



# The Macarthur Beekeeper

September 2021

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



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## USEFUL LINKS

### **MBA Website:**

<https://macarthur.beekeepers.asn.au>

### **MBA Public Facebook:**

<https://facebook.com/macbeekeepers>

### **MBA Members Only Group:**

[facebook.com/groups/macbeekeepermembers](https://facebook.com/groups/macbeekeepermembers)

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Greetings fellow Beekeepers

On behalf of all members of Macarthur Beekeepers Association Inc., I start this month's report by expressing our most sincere condolences to Club Secretary Brett Matthew in the sudden passing of his wife on September 8th. Our thoughts and prayers are with Brett and family in this time of loss. Brett has resigned effective immediately in order to concentrate on family matters. Again, on behalf of the Club I would like to thank Brett for his diligence in assisting the Club as Secretary for the past two years. Brett, we appreciate all you have done and our hearts are with you.

In the interim, while the now vacant position of Club Secretary is filled, I have arranged for the Club Secretary's email and Club postal address to be assigned to me as Club President so Brett is not distracted by any upcoming Club correspondence.

On September 9th the NSW State Government announced changes to Regional NSW by altering lock down restrictions for areas other than 38 nominated LGA's. Unfortunately, these lessening of restrictions do not apply to Macarthur as we fall within the Greater Sydney Region which remains in lockdown.

*Continues on page 2...*

Along with the rest of Greater Sydney and eventually all NSW, we will come under the NSW Government's announced "roadmap to freedom at 70% total vaccination".

The Club Executive will continue to monitor things as they change, however it is likely that future Club face-to-face events such as club meetings and field days will not only be limited to nominated group sizes in the short term but also, in line with the NSW Government's roadmap to freedom, will be restricted to those who are able to verify they are fully vaccinated. With this in mind, I would encourage all members to consider your vaccination status and along with the NSW Premier encourage any members currently not vaccinated to discuss vaccination with your GP and make a booking as soon as possible.

The October Field Day is highly unlikely to proceed. However, there is still an extremely thin hope we may be able to do something. Specifically in regard to Field Days, which historically have been oversubscribed, I am currently considering restricting the number of non-members permitted to attend an event and the number of events the same non-member may attend as a guest. I am keen to ensure that our membership fees provide a tangible and value-added benefit to members. I believe it is important to continue to welcome non-members to Field Days so they can see what beekeeping is about, however I do not feel that invitation should be open-ended.

The club has received notification of a number of swarms over the past few weeks with people requesting assistance. I remind members that the Club no longer manages an independent swarm catchers list. Instead, we direct people with swarm queries to the NSW ABA Swarm Catcher site where they can enter the postcode where the swarm has been sighted and then contact the beekeepers registered as swarm catchers in that area. If any members are interested in registering themselves as swarm catchers, they can do so through the ABA site.

Stay safe! Happy Beekeeping!

*Ed*



# WELCOME NEWBEES

Welcome to our latest members!

**Sally Watson**

**Douglas Horne**

**Daryl Duguid**



## APIARY GOINGS ON

Hi,

As we must stay at home in NSW, field days have been cancelled for the last few months, but we continue taking care of our Apiary for when restrictions are lifted and we are back to our field day activities. Bees have been complying with the 5km rule and haven't stopped gathering goods (fresh nectar & pollen).

As Spring is coming this month, it seems that the cold winter days are gone. With lots of sunny and hot days we should keep inspecting our hives, giving space for the queen to lay and adding boxes to store sweet honey.

There is a lot of nectar and pollen flowing into the hives, bees are really set for Spring, growing in population and bee boxes.

Perhaps it will be a wet spring, so be sure to keep small hive beetles under control.

September activities at the Apiary:

- Full hive inspection
- Hive swarming control
- Inserted new frames with embedded wax in the brood nest
- Added super for honey.

**James**



## VICE PRESIDENT UPDATE

Hello fellow members/friends,

I just wanted to share my little story on what happened to my Flow-hive over winter.

I left my Flow hive super on over winter which I have done for a couple of years now. I opened up the viewing windows on Friday 13th August and noticed an enormous amount of mould on them. As you can imagine I was quite concerned about this.



It was a lovely warm day so I decided I would open the hive to check all the flow frames and all the frames were covered in mould on the front end and back end. When I looked at the honey that was capped it looked wet, but it wasn't wet to touch. I removed the flow super straight away and closed up the hive again. I checked all the frames and they all had a good amount of wet looking honey on them.

I decided to inspect the brood box. On inspecting the brood frames the two or three frames that had stored honey in them also looked wet. I took them out and replaced them with new wired and waxed frames. I sent photos to Ed but he hadn't seen anything like it before and suggested I send them to James. As soon as I sent them to James, he rang me and said it was lucky I saw it and removed them when I did because it was small hive beetle that had nested in the honey and if I hadn't removed them, the huge amount of small hive beetles would have caused a slime out. I would have lost my hive. On closer inspection of the honey frames from the brood box I could actually see tiny little worm-like bugs moving around the frame.

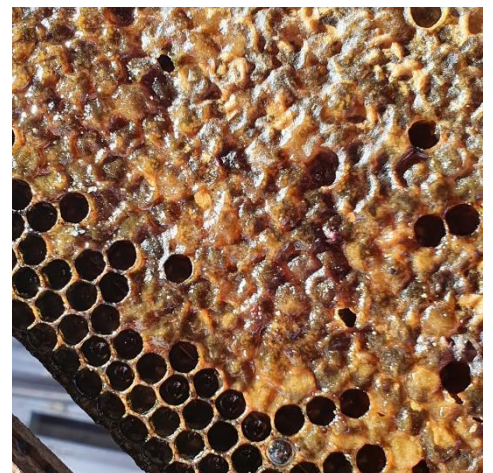
I harvested the honey from the flow frames and you could smell that it had started to ferment so it all got thrown away 😞

Lesson learnt I will not leave the flow hive super on again and I have already added an ideal box on top of the brood box and I will leave this on next year for their honey supply for over winter.

My advice is that we have very knowledgeable people in our club. Don't be afraid to utilise them because if the first person you ask doesn't know or is unsure, they will always send you onto someone with more knowledge to help answer your question or help solve your problems.

Thanks for reading!

*Rhonda*



## EDUCATION AND BIOSECURITY UPDATE

Hi everyone,

Spring is here and how strong are our hives coming out of winter this year? This spring inspection I had more bees in my hives than ever before! They are crowded even though I added space earlier, but they attacked for example an ideal box and finished drawing the comb and storing some nectar within 3 days. There were also swarm cells with larvae in 2 hives so I had to split them in a hurry. Unfortunately, I couldn't find the queen in one of them and even though I took 40% of the population out, they still swarmed the very next day. After going back on swarming day, I noticed I missed one tiny queen cell on one frame. This shows you that you have to be very, very thorough with your inspection.

So, if you haven't done your spring inspection yet please do so as soon as you can. Remember if there are lots of bees on the frame gently shake them off and thoroughly inspect each frame for disease, in particular AFB and EFB. If you are not sure about what to check for, refer to the AgGuide healthy bees which should be in your library. Members received a copy free of charge from the DPI.

You can find more info about what to do when inspecting your hive in my article from last month's newsletter.

Happy beekeeping!

*Torsten*

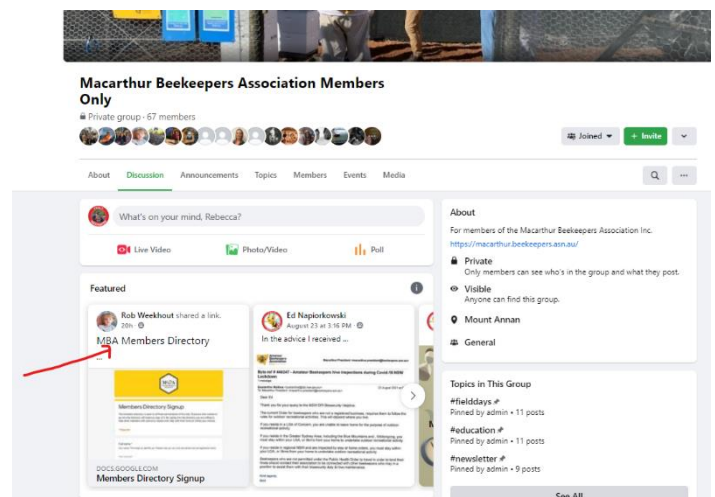
## LIAISON OFFICER REPORT

My name is Rebecca Rinaldo and I am the Liaison Officer for The Macarthur Beekeepers Association.

Rob, our webmaster, has kindly put the link on Facebook for people to register their interest in our Members Directory. Hopefully it's got two purposes

1. Links people with a buddy. For example Erny is new to the club and is looking for a buddy
2. Links people together in their suburbs.

Link: <https://forms.gle/qHwq9HmrZmxG3AYw8>



### Member profile – Rhonda (Vice President)

#### *How did you hear about Macarthur Beekeeping?*

I actually can't remember how I found out about Macarthur Beekeeping. I might have googled bee clubs in my area. I do remember my first visit at the club very well. I walked in and was greeted by Ed who introduced me to Dallys, Torsten and Ricarda. I was made to feel very welcome and now call these lovely people my friends and as we say the rest is history.



#### *What got you interested in beekeeping?*

I had/have a veggie garden and had so many pumpkins that were not being pollinated so everyday either before or after work I would go out and pollinate them and thought there must be a better way. I actually have an apiary not far from me but don't think those girls like to visit my garden. Also joined the Flow Hive crowdfunding page and bought my first hive through them. I read everything I could get my hands on and did a beekeeping course. That gave me the confidence to get my first bees and I haven't looked back.

#### *What is your current setup?*

Well, I had 6 hives, but lost one over winter which was very sad. But sometimes it happens. Today I did my first split on my own but only had a nuc box ready to go so I've used that. I've been very lucky as I've had two great members who are always willing to help. But I must say if I have any question, there are so many knowledgeable people in our club who are more than willing to help a newbie. So, I'm now back to 6. I have Flow Hives, normal Langstroth hives and 1 poly hive which I love.



#### *If you could fly overseas for a holiday, where would you go and why?*

Not interested in going overseas but would love to see my family in Maitland area and the other one who lives in Tweed Heads. Been too long since I've seen them. The reason I'm not interested in going overseas is because there are so many beautiful places here in Oz to see first.



Caden

Anthony, my eldest daughter Naomi, Caden & Eli

Eli



Rebecca

## MEMBERSHIP OFFICER UPDATE

### Membership Renewal

Just another reminder that you would have received your email to renew your annual membership to the Macarthur Beekeepers Association Inc and The Amateur Beekeepers' Association of NSW Inc for the 2021/2022 year. After the 30th of this month you'll need to re-join the club if you haven't renewed your membership.

The new membership period is from July 1st 2021 to June 30th 2022.

As current members of the club you only pay the yearly membership fees, which are:

MBAi yearly membership fee: **\$5**

ABA yearly membership fee: **\$20**

Optional insurance (1 to 100 hives): **\$15**

Once these fees are paid the ABA will post your 2021/22 member pack, which will include your membership card, log book and AFB test kit.

You can log into your ABA LoveAdmin account here to pay:

<https://app.loveadmin.com/Login/D2AB9E7AECE0D5B7F34524B9DF66AB3A.htm>

If you have any questions or need assistance updating your details, please don't hesitate to get in contact with Rob at: [macarthur.membership@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.membership@beekeepers.asn.au)

*Rob*

## BEE INFORMED

### Member contributions/Research articles

#### Garden tip for beekeepers

If possible, let plants go to seed thereby providing extra flowers in the garden!! A lot of beautiful flowers result from letting veggies go to seed (as well as free seedlings later!)



*Christine*

## Why Zero Waste Honey should be the new norm

A great idea for people who need to post honey. These pouches are a lot less weight and a saver, I think. It can also go into the compost bin- another plus. I have bought some to try and will let you all know how they go. I bought 24 which costs \$30.36 with postage - works out at \$1.27 each.

<https://amberdrophoney.com.au/why-zero-waste-honey-should-be-the-new-norm/>



*Introducing the compostable honey pouch:*



**This pouch is made out of bioplastic that is compostable at home in 180-300 days.**

Simply cut open and decant your honey into a jar.

Once you are done, peel off the label (we are working on compostable labels, but bear with us for a bit) and put the pouch in your compost or bury it in your garden.

If you don't have a garden or access to a compost bin, don't worry. Just return the pouches to us and we can do the composting for you.

*Rhonda*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

With the current COVID lockdown in place, Bunnings have suspended all stalls until further notice, so no honey stalls. Likewise, both the Mount Annan Botanic Gardens and the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living, who we supply with honey, are closed for the present.

However, it is not too late to order a club shirt! Please see attached details on page 14 and email Jeanette for more information or to place your order.

Contact Jeanette at [macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au)

*Jeanette*



## BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE

### Spot the Queen!

Given we will be ramping up our inspections with the arrival of Spring, I thought it might be a good time to get some practice in spotting the queen. A big thank you to James and Frank for providing these photos!



[Answers on the last page!](#)

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

Please check the calendar on the MBAi website for event updates: [macarthur.beekeepers.asn.au](http://macarthur.beekeepers.asn.au)  
Deadline for submissions for our next newsletter is Sunday 10th October.

Submit articles with photos separately (not embedded in the document) or advertisement requests to Mel at: [macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au)

### PLEASE NOTE

Club meetings will continue to be held online via Google Meet till further notice. There will be pre-registration for a number of people to attend at the MCSL

OCTOBER 2021	NOVEMBER 2021	DECEMBER 2021
9th - Field Day	13th - Field Day	11th - Field Day
10th - Close for Newsletter	14th - Close for Newsletter	12th - Close for Newsletter
17th - Newsletter out	20th - Newsletter out	15th - Meeting 7.30
20th - Meeting 7:30pm		19th - Newsletter out

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions all further club meetings will be online only. Please see details below for upcoming meetings.

**Wednesday, 20 October · 7:30 – 9:30pm**

MBA Club Meeting Online

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/zqi-yofd-thd>

Or dial: (AU) +61 2 9051 5582 PIN: 185 824 466#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/zqi-yofd-thd?pin=9346897876736>

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**



## SPONSOR PRODUCTS OF THE MONTH

As part of the newsletter, we will be putting a spotlight on a product each month from our sponsors. If you have any products you would recommend, please email [macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au). Please note that these products are shown for informational purposes only and prices are accurate as at the time of writing. As many beekeepers will tell you, there are many products that can do the same job and much of the decision can come down to preference and budget. We strongly encourage you to speak to other club members or the store directly for more information, feedback and advice.



### New arrival!

#### 5 Frame Beekeeping Nuc - Bulk Lots of 25 - Flat Packed

RRP: \$12.50

Simple design and easy to use and assemble. 5 frame nuc comes flat packed. The nuc is constructed from corflute and includes an adjustable entrance gate/disc. Bulk lots and pricing.

#### SPECIFICATION

**Nuc Hive Dimensions:** 56cm x 22cm x 28cm

**Frame Size:** 5 x Full Depth

**Quantity:** Available in Bulk Lots of 25 Only



<https://beekeeping.iwoohoo.com.au/queen-accessories/5-frame-beekeeping-nuc-flat-packed/>



Unit 1A 1 Swaffham Rd, Minto NSW 2566

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

Open Saturdays 9am to 1pm

Tel: 02 9731 7400



### Pierce Electric Uncapping Knife - 'Speed King' USA

RRP: \$253

Now: \$187



Invented and patented by Paul Pierce in 1941, the Pierce Speed King electric uncapping knife has been copied, but never bettered.

This knife is used worldwide by professional and hobby beekeepers. We import these knives from the original manufacturer in Southern California USA.

Made from food grade 304 stainless steel.

10" long and 2" wide with turned wood handle.

Sealed thermostat in blade - factory set, ready to use out of box. Pre-calibrated at correct uncapping temperature.

8-foot grounded electric cord.

<https://hornsby-beekeeping.com/pierce-electric-uncapping-knife-speed-king-usa/>



#### Hornsby Store

Unit # 8 47 - 51 Jersey Street, Hornsby, NSW  
2077

Monday - Friday (9 AM - 5 PM)

Saturdays (9 AM - 4 PM)

Phone: (02) 9477 5569

#### Mt Druitt Store

Unit 11, 71 Kurrajong Avenue, Mt. Druitt, NSW  
2770

Monday - Friday: 10 AM - 6 PM

Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM

Phone: (02) 9625 5424

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CLUB SHIRT?

We are looking to order club shirts. There are two options:

### Option 1

Existing Bisley style

Available in Sand colour in standard mens and womens sizes.

Price will depend on numbers ordered. Base price for men \$41.95 and women \$58.95.

Available in long or short sleeves



- Two pleated button down chest pockets
- Left chest pocket with pen division
- Centre back box pleat
- Two piece structured collar
- Two button adjustable sleeve cuff
- Contrast, natural coloured buttons

### Option 2

Syzmik

Available in Stone colour in standard mens and womens sizes.

Price will depend on numbers ordered. Base price for long sleeves \$50.95 and short sleeves \$45.95.



- 100gsm crinkle resistant breathable lightweight fabric
- Extra-large under arm mesh and upper back venting to maximise air flow, roll up tab sleeves
- Two chest pockets, one mobile phone chest zip pocket

### Embroidery on shirts

Price dependent on the number ordered.

Club name on left front \$9.95.

Name additional on right front \$9.95.

Payment on delivery.

I am not finalising shirt purchases until after the September club meeting so please email if you wish to place an order.

Contact Jeanette at [macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au)

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Diatomaceous Earth

Now available in  
500g tubs for \$7  
Contact Ed on  
0439 303 422

### WANTED TO BUY

Large quantities of  
honey on a  
regular basis.  
Call Mark on  
0408 412 272

### FULLY ESTABLISHED HIVES FOR SALE

Available from mid-September (weather permitting)

Established colony with 2021 queen in corflute box.

Available now

Call Torsten on 0425357643 or E-Mail engelhardt@optusnet.com.au

### BEE HIVE AGISTMENT

We have had Tim contact us in relation to the possibility of one of our members leaving some bee hives at his property in exchange for some of the honey produced. Property location is Orangeville and he is on 12 acres. Please contact Tim Jeffcott on 0413 010 027 for more information.

### BOOK YOUR SPRING AND SUMMER NUCS

5 frames of strong and healthy bees with a new mated queen.

Price: \$220 – Local pickup in Campbelltown

For any further details & orders (delivery &/installation)

Call James Templeman Ph: 0466823635

We are COVID SAFE

**Newsletter Advertising** Short line with phone nos. = Free, Size up to 60mm by 40mm (one per member) = Free. Non-member = \$10/per month. Required to renew your ad each month. Provide artwork to:

[Macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:Macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au)

### Club equipment available to Members

The following equipment is available for use by club members:

- A two-frame manual extractor.
- A four-frame manual extractor.
- An electric uncapping knife.
- A Cappings draining tray set.

For use contact Ed

Via email

[macarthur.president@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.president@beekeepers.asn.au)

Or phone:

0439 303 422

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

# BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE ANSWERS (PAGE 9)

How did you go?

