



The Macarthur Beekeeper

December 2021

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



WHAT'S INSIDE

- ★ **President's Update**
- ★ **Apiary Goings On**
- ★ **Biosecurity update**
- ★ **Bee Informed**
- ★ **Beekeeper's Puzzle**
- ★ **Meetings & Events**
- ★ **Sponsorship**
- ★ **Classifieds**

USEFUL LINKS

MBA Website:

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

MBA Public Facebook:

<https://facebook.com/macbeekeepers>

MBA Members Only Group:

facebook.com/groups/macbeekeepermembers

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Greetings fellow Beekeepers

COVID-19: We continue to restrict face-to-face attendance at Field Days and our Club Meetings to those who are able to verify a fully vaccinated status.

Field Days - Though NSW Government restrictions on outdoor events such as our Field Day no longer mandate numbers (we fall under the 1000 attendees), we will continue to restrict the number of people attending to around 30 in order to ensure those who do attend will have the best user experience. Too many people inside the area of the apiary makes it difficult for everyone to participate and gain the experience they are seeking by attending. Because Field Days are very popular, we are restricting the number of non-member attendees to 8 (approx. 25%). We want to ensure our members are given as much opportunity to attend and participate as possible.

Club Meetings - From December, face-to-face attendance at club meetings will resume and we will continue with live streaming to maximise participation. The face-to-face attendance will continue to be managed through the pre-registration system.

Continues on page 2...

MCSL & Men's Shed: I recently had a catchup meeting with Helen from the MCSL and Roy, and a couple of others, from the Men's Shed.

Roy from the Men's Shed had recently watched a program on the ABC related to beekeeping and PTSD support for ex-service personnel. The Men's Shed was seeking to initiate some building activities along a similar line and basically wanted to know if we would be interested in partnering with them. They could assist people to build hives, and we could assist with beekeeping knowledge. More work to be done on a practical level but there are some possibilities. Discussion then expanded to cover more broad topics especially how the MCSL, Men's Shed and MBAi may better assist each other. I shared my personal concerns about current restrictions which had me looking at potential alternative locations for MBAi's apiary, e.g., cannot park our trailer on site, cannot park cars by the apiary without generating concern, unable to establish a portable building or container without going through the expensive process of submitting formal engineering drawings, DA etc which I feared would consume most of the club's financial reserve on paperwork, rather than any building itself.

A few ideas floated by Helen and Roy in particular were of specific interest to me.

- Adding MBAi to the lease arrangements with the Botanic Gardens, similar to the current setup with the Men's Shed (I need to see more detail on this).
- With appropriate training and initially possible Men's Shed representation, use of the Men's Shed facilities on a field day by MBAi when MBAi are assembling boxes, building and waxing frames etc.
- MCSL rearranging the fenced 'nursery area' at the rear of the Men's Shed to provide space for MBAi to position an ATCO site office or similar. The hut would have access to power and water (no WC) and therefore could be used to store equipment used on a field day, a venue for education on honey extraction, wax melting or other field day activities which would benefit from indoor space requiring power and water.
- In order to make improvements easier to progress, possibly relocating the MBAi Apiary slightly so that it resides within the boundary of the MCSL rather than the current location which is within the boundary of the Botanic Gardens.

I'm sharing this information with you as it was a positive discussion with potential to assist our club and also strengthen relationships with the Men's Shed and MCSL. There will need to be follow up both with Helen and Roy but we have started the process and I have shared these same details with our Club Exec.

Apiary Officer: James has informed me that due to pressing personal commitments he would like to step down from the Apiary Officer position some time in the New Year. Acknowledging this is a vital role in any beekeeping club, James is offering to buddy up with anyone interested in taking up the position next year to help them understand what is involved and also build confidence. It presents a great opportunity for an individual to provide a positive input to our great club! If you are interested in learning more, please contact James directly via email on Macarthur.Apiary@Beekeepers.asn.au.

Brood Inspection: In chatting with a number of members they have expressed difficulty in conducting a brood inspection due to poor weather. As beekeepers, we are encouraged to inspect as often as necessary and have biosecurity obligations to conduct and document at least two formal full brood inspections each year, at a minimum of 4 consecutive calendar months apart. The weather will improve so be patient. My advice is not to panic, prepare all the equipment you will need for your inspection and have it

on standby so when the weather permits you can quickly take advantage of it and swing into action. Remember, if in doubt do not be afraid to ask for advice or assistance from your fellow club members.

Merry Christmas: I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and Happy Christmas and an awesome new year!

Happy Beekeeping!

Ed Napiorkowski
President



WELCOME NEWBEES

Welcome to our latest members!
Justine Crouchley-Crawford



APIARY GOINGS ON

At the Apiary

The weather has been surprisingly rainy these past weeks and we haven't been able to do much work at the club apiary. The good thing is that the club's beehives are strong, with lots of bees and with hive beetles under control. Bees have been busy gathering nectar since the last honey harvest too!

December Field Day

As field days have returned, and the weather was much better, our members and I got suited up, went into the apiary and opened some lids of our hives.

The topic was SHB, so we showed the different types of traps and how we control SHB in the club's beehives, how to install and also do maintenance to the SHB traps.

James Templeman
Apiary Officer



EDUCATION AND BIOSECURITY UPDATE

Hi everyone,

After a lengthy period of wet and cooler weather it seems like the swarming season has finally slowed down. There are still swarms appearing but not as many as we had previously.

Even though we have had this weather around now for quite some time it's important to remember that we have European honeybees. And they just love these temperatures. So chances are, if you haven't harvested in the last 2 months, your hive might be full of honey. And being honey logged could mean that they get the idea of swarming again. So dust off your extractor, or if you don't have one, borrow one from the club. We have several available and there is also a honey press to get the honey out of those cappings.

Happy beekeeping!

Torsten Engelhardt
Education & Biosecurity Officer

MEMBER PROFILES

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

Just a reminder if you want to be part of the members directory, the link to this can be found on our Facebook page or you can simply email me your name, phone number and suburb at macarthur.liaison@beekeepers.asn.au.

I would like to introduce you to our newsletter editor, Melanie Taraborrelli.

Member profile – Melanie Taraborrelli

How did you hear about Macarthur Beekeeping?

I actually started my beekeeping journey with another beekeeping club closer to my home. After selecting my “apiary site” at my in-laws (due to overly curious little people at my house), I decided to contact the nearby Macarthur Beekeeping Club. I’ve been a member since mid-last year and I’m so glad I joined. I’ve met many wonderful and knowledgeable people, and it’s a lovely little community!



What got you interested in beekeeping?

I’m pretty sure my curiosity began while watching a Landline episode discussing the decline in bee numbers and the importance of their existence. To be honest, I’ve had a fear of bees since I was a child due to the movie “My Girl” (a 90’s classic)! However, I was fascinated with the bees’ general system – everyone had a job, it was an efficient structure, and if the boss wasn’t doing her job, she was replaced! I’m not going to lie; I was probably envious of the organisation of a hive in comparison to the chaos of my household. I attended a few field days at MBAi’s apiary before I bought a hive, gingerly got involved with inspecting some frames and my amazement grew from there. The rest of my family are slowly starting to get interested/involved too. I even commenced my Cert III in Beekeeping this year as I still have a lot to learn, and a lot of confidence to gain!

What is your current setup?

In October 2020, I was lucky enough that a fellow member of the MBAi offered to catch a swarm for me. I added an additional hive this year which I purchased from another fellow member. The colonies are both in 8 frame Langstroth hives at Ellis Lane and have been helping the various fruit and veg plants have productive seasons for us. I’m hoping to extract a bit of honey this season too!

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

It is unlikely I will be “flying” overseas for a while – the thought of a plane ride with my crew is enough to put me off travel. However, I would love to see the beauty of Finland and Iceland one day. In the meantime, I’m quite happy with road trips around our own beautiful country.



Rebecca Rinaldo
Liaison Officer

VICE PRESIDENT UPDATE

Hello members,

I hope everyone's hives are doing well. Mine are going very strong. I've been harvesting my flow hive and did three frames a couple of weeks ago which resulted in 9.44 kilos! I harvested again today and managed an amazing 19.6 kilos!

I have been mentoring some club members and they are going strong. One new member is very good at finding the queen, much better than me I must admit.

Also, I have been rendering my wax. Due to all this rain and not being able to check on the hives, I have been trying to render quite a few ways, but must admit I do now love the crock pot way so much easier. Very clean wax but it does need rendering about three times.

I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas spending time together with your family. If you are having a break, lucky you. Hope to be back to normal next year and can start getting together at the clubhouse for our meetings like the old days.

On a side note, I have a lot of small food grade buckets. If anyone is interested in some, please send me a message on Facebook, or email me at macarthur.vicepresident@beekeepers.asn.au

Merry Christmas everyone! See you all next year!

Rhonda Savva
Vice President



BEE INFORMED

Member contributions/Research articles

Hives for Heroes

As Ed mentioned in his President's update, the Men's Shed are keen to commence a similar initiative to Hives for Heroes, which was recently shown on Landline.

For those that missed it and not sure what we are referring to, the below link will take you through a veteran's story of how beekeeping helped him with mindfulness, and he is now helping others in similar situations.

Read: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-14/healing-power-of-bees-for-traumatised-military-veterans/100532362>

Watch: <https://www.abc.net.au/landline/hives-for-heroes:-veterans-discover-the-healing/13637504>

Planning a garden?

I do not have a green thumb at all, but as beekeepers it certainly is handy to know your plants, when to plant, how to design your garden, when they flower etc. I recently came across this AgriFutures document which would be very helpful for those thinking of making their gardens more bee-friendly.

It also has some really interesting facts that I would never have considered. As an example, unused railway reserves are a management concern for local authorities. Planting low-maintenance bee forage species may provide a low-cost means of controlling weeds, and providing an extensive resource for bees. So, did you know that Melbourne has 372km of electrified urban rail? If 50% of this rail was available, and assuming 5m of planting, this would provide an additional 93 hectares of dedicated bee forage!!! As well probably quite a pretty railway!

This document has certainly given me some ideas for my next garden overhaul!



<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/12-014.pdf>

Mel Taraborrelli
Editor

SALES AND MARKETING UPDATE

Hi everyone,

Sales of club honey has been strong this season thanks to the support of Camden Valley Meats and the Centre for Sustainable Living. It has been challenging keeping up with their demand, and would not be possible without the tireless work of James, our apiarist, and our equipment officer Anthony. Many thanks guys for keeping our supply chains flowing.

The club was well represented at Bunnings Narellan Christmas Market, on the 9th December with our display looking most professional with our colourful tent and decorations (see photos). Thanks Anthony and Dallys for the display and Ed and Jeanette on the sales team. The market had been moved inside due to inclement weather, but we were prepared for all seasons. Our club resources and equipment were quite outstanding. Really appreciated all the transporting of heavy equipment that Anthony managed, thank you so much.



Our new club caps are available for sale at \$32 each. They are really high quality and very stylish. Contact Jeanette at macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au. Available in black or khaki, but be quick, there are only 5 of each colour and first in best dressed!

As a guide for your own honey pricing, Club honey is now selling for \$20 per kilo, \$10 for 500g and \$8 for 375g. Hope this helps. If you have bulk honey that you wish to sell, please let me know.

Jeanette Howie
Sales & Marketing Officer

BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE**Macarthur Beekeepers**

M X V B R N Z V I W B M A O V P A R Z C Z S T P
 A Z Y V R Y Q K P I L I A M E Q H I V E T O O L
 C C A P P I N G S C I T P A S X Z B R I B J S Y
 A M C Q T V B J W Q K A W T G G W A T W A M M A
 R S R C P O L L E N S G L U E C F X K T S K O E
 T X L P Y D C Q Q U A B U M F K S H J F E B K A
 H G F M L B V L I O B R Q H O U F G T S B U E C
 U G C P X P E U Y O Q O N K U A E U U W O B R F
 R H A U R W I M P G D O I W N N A E Q E A G V B
 B D Z W N A L Q Q A Y D N J D S D D E X R L N Z
 E V B W U X R A O E F B S Q A T F N T C D S R D
 E H Y Q F D F B N M Y O H E T R R N M L U I W R
 K W Y V A I V H Q H A X C J I A Z I N U N H D B
 E Y M J S X O N V O P Y P B O I W T F D B H I E
 E X D O G J X Y Y N R F P E N N E O R E B Z K E
 P M Z N L B T V J E O D N C Q E J V A R I B J S
 E Z O Y O M J R N Y P Z D Z R R K X M D G Y K U
 R L K G V H V W P Z O R K L I F A F E Q E Q O I
 S I L Q E C C G Z Q L R W U O N J B J M N P H T
 I D T F S D P G Z Q I H I V E S T A N D Z Z M M
 S B R O O D I Y W N S N V Y D N X W V N O W I R
 R O E K X Q K R F Y M S U P E R C P G L W J O O
 M Q H T X R C F R D G S D I M Y J R J W H W W E
 Y S S D T M H S F J M N U X W W V K T A T M R T

pollen
 hivestand
 strainer
 foundation
 beesuit
 excluder
 wax

brood
 lid
 cappings
 veil
 baseboard
 smoker
 honey

propolis
 broodbox
 frame
 gloves
 super
 hivetool
 macarthurbeekeepers

[Answers on the last page!](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Please check the calendar on the MBAi website for event updates: macarthur.beekeepers.asn.au

Deadline for submissions for our next newsletter is Sunday 9th January.

Submit articles with photos separately (not embedded in the document) or advertisement requests to Mel at: 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

| JANUARY 2022 | FEBRUARY 2022 | MARCH 2022 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8th - Field Day | 12th - Field Day | 12th - Field Day |
| 9th - Close for Newsletter | 13th - Close for Newsletter | 13th - Close for Newsletter |
| 16th - Newsletter out | 16th - Meeting 7.30pm | 16th - Meeting 7.30pm |
| 19th - Meeting 7.30pm | 20th - Newsletter out | 20th - Newsletter out |

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

Wednesday, 19th January · 7:30 – 10:30pm

MBA Club Meeting Online

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/qob-ejii-dma>

Or dial: +61 2 9051 4717 PIN: 126553087

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/qob-ejii-dma?pin=3566508650082>

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. 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.



34cm Double Strainer with extendable arms and attached stand

RRP: \$39.95

Current price: \$19.95

Made from high quality 304 stainless steel this honey strainer measures 34cm in length.

It has a double sieve system with fine and coarse mesh and features extendable arms which can be adjusted to fit.

Not only is it useful for straining your honey following the extraction process but it also helps in removing any large foreign items.

<https://beekeeping.iwoohoo.com.au/tools/34cm-double-strainer-with-extendable-arms-and-attached-stand/>



Unit 1A 1 Swaffham Rd, Minto NSW 2566

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

Open Saturdays 9am to 1pm

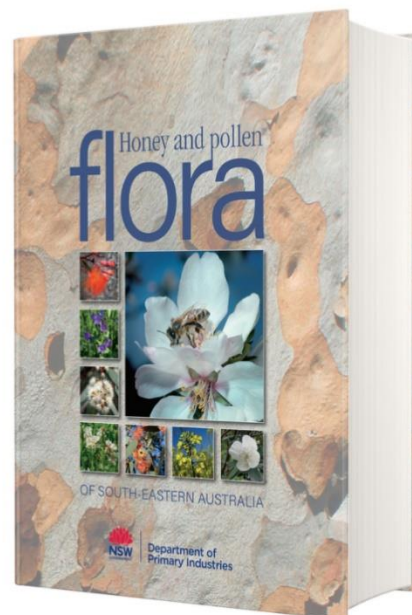
Tel: 02 9731 7400



Honey Pollen and Flora by Dr Doug Somerville RRP: \$192.50

Beekeepers have a new tool to keep their colonies healthy, with the publication of a landmark reference book by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), *Honey and Pollen Flora of South-Eastern Australia*.

“Successful beekeepers understand the biology and value of floral resources which provide critical nectar and pollen to their bee hives, keeping them healthy and profitable,” Dr Somerville said. “The book distils over 30 years of research and the real-world experience of hundreds of professional beekeepers, which will contribute to a substantial increase in floral understanding in apiculture.” From *Acacia* to *Xanthorrhoea* species, over 500 plants are photographed and described for easy identification, mapped, and given a star rating for their value to honey bees either as a source of nectar, pollen or both.



Plant species of value to beekeeping from southern Queensland, NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania are detailed in the book, which covers:

- What makes an ideal apiary site?
- Hive stocking rate
- Honey bee nutrition
- Star rating
- A note on flowering charts
- What's in a name?
- Describing plants
- List families – genus/species
- Individual plant profiles

<https://hornsby-beekeeping.com/honey-pollen-and-flora-by-dr-doug-somerville/>



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

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



HIVES AND NUCS FOR SALE

5 frame nucleus hive with 2021 mated and marked queen
(limited numbers in stock) - \$220

8 frame established hive with 2021 mated and marked queen
(2 available) - \$300

Please call or text Torsten on 0425 357 643 for availability and
to arrange pickup

I offer installation in your hives on site too for an additional
small fee.



BOOK YOUR NUCS

5 frames of strong and healthy bees with a new mated Italian queen (very calm bees).

Price: \$250 – Local pickup in Campbelltown

MBAi members get \$10% discount

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

Call James Templeman Ph: 0466 823 635

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

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 Anthony

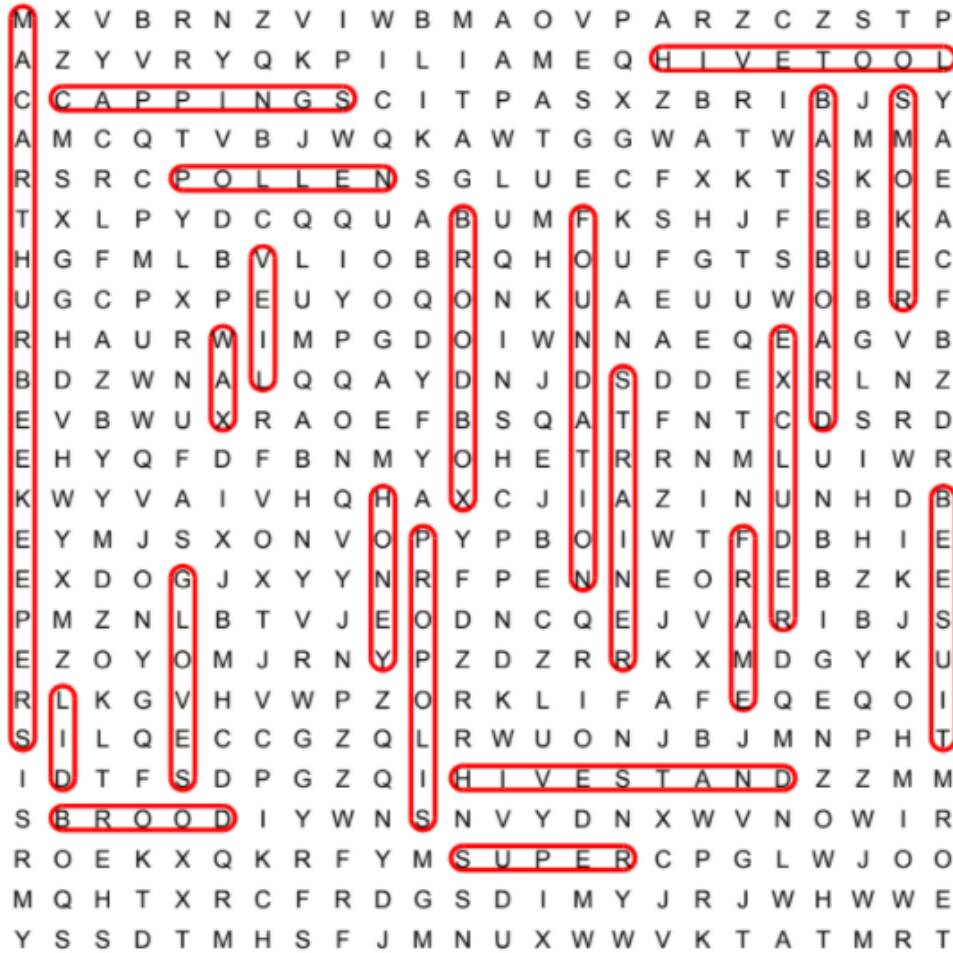
Via phone or text:

0412 577 828

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

BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE ANSWERS (PAGE 9)

Macarthur Beekeepers



pollen
 hivestand
 strainer
 foundation
 beesuit
 excluder
 wax

brood
 lid
 cappings
 veil
 baseboard
 smoker
 honey

propolis
 broodbox
 frame
 gloves
 super
 hivetool
 macarthurbeekeepers