



# Amateur Beekeepers Association

**NSW** PARRAMATTA

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

For information on the ABA including joining (re-joining) go to: [www.beekeepers.asn.au](http://www.beekeepers.asn.au)

To go to the Parramatta Branch Page, click on <https://goo.gl/i4q87x>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/parramattabeekeepers/>

## Thank you

We particularly thank Robyn Alderton for her contribution as the previous editor of the club newsletter. She created a great easy to read newsletter full of information needed by members.

## Latest apiary news

It was announced at the April meeting that we would conduct 2 apiary inspections, April 15th and 22nd. 15th for extraction and 22nd for AFB check. Well the weather was not with us on the 15th as it was cool with a wind chill factor of about 16 to 17C. We advised that the extraction was off. The morning was not totally wasted as we all collected our protective clothing and headed to the apiary for a hive structure review. I explained the differing hive configurations and why we had selected these and explained the vacant space was for a Warre hive next season and how in the ABA grant we had put aside funds for the wax crush. We then adjourned to our storage shed for a review of SHB traps - internal - Apithor, internal - Silver Bullet and under bottom board - Beetla Traps as well as hive layouts and Langstroth vs FLOW.

The discussion ended mid-morning, where we chatted over a coffee and biscuit supplied by Sandy Harrison and Peta Appleroth. Thanks to all who joined us and see you again Sunday April 22 for a go at extracting again. The AFB check and Sugar shake will be set now at a later date

## Changing email addresses

Many of our new executive members are using "generic" email addresses so their private email accounts are not publicised. Please be careful to use the correct email address.

- |                    |                  |  |
|--------------------|------------------|--|
| • President        | Geoff Peoples    | <a href="mailto:parramatta.president@beekeepers.asn.au">parramatta.president@beekeepers.asn.au</a>     |
| • Deputy President | Dave Wilson      | <a href="mailto:secretary@beekeepers.asn.au">secretary@beekeepers.asn.au</a>                           |
| • Secretary        | Bernie Gesling   | <a href="mailto:parramatta.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au">parramatta.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au</a>     |
| • Treasurer        | Andrew Bardsley  | <a href="mailto:parramatta.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au">parramatta.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au</a>     |
| • Stores           | Lod Porretta     | <a href="mailto:parramatta.stores@beekeepers.asn.au">parramatta.stores@beekeepers.asn.au</a>           |
| • Events           | Sandy Harrison   | <a href="mailto:parramatta.events@beekeepers.asn.au">parramatta.events@beekeepers.asn.au</a>           |
| • Biosecurity      | Robyn Alderton   | <a href="mailto:parramatta.biosecurity@beekeepers.asn.au">parramatta.biosecurity@beekeepers.asn.au</a> |
| • Apiary           | Peter Clarke     | <a href="mailto:parramatta.apiary@beekeepers.asn.au">parramatta.apiary@beekeepers.asn.au</a>           |
| • Swarms           | Gary Christoffel | <a href="mailto:gmchristoffel@gmail.com">gmchristoffel@gmail.com</a>                                   |
| • Education        | Arthur Garske    | <a href="mailto:awgarske@gmail.com">awgarske@gmail.com</a>   |

## St Ives Show

The St Ives Show is on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May and is the premier event for our club. It provides an opportunity to promote Australian beekeeping and honey.

You can enter your honey for judging – the details are explained on the next page with the entry form printed at the end of the newsletter.

Your competition honey and other apiary products for judging should be given to Sandy Harrison at the coming meeting. Putting your entries into a cardboard box will be appreciated.

### APICULTURE SCHEDULE – ST IVES SHOW 2018

ST IVES SHOWGROUND, 19 - 20 MAY 2018



**Apiculture Chief Steward: Sandy Harrison**

T 0448 600 324 [Emilo.rob@bigpond.com](mailto:Emilo.rob@bigpond.com)

Website: [www.beekeepers.asn.au](http://www.beekeepers.asn.au)

This year's Apiculture products such as honey and beeswax will be displayed and judged at the St Ives Show. The display and judging will be coordinated by the Parramatta Branch of the Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW.

#### ENTRIES:

1. No more than two entries from one competitor for any one class.
2. A Fee of \$2.00 is to be charged for each entry.
3. Certificates will be awarded for First, Second and Third in each class.
4. Entries will be accepted at the Parramatta ABA club meeting on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 or at the Showground, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May between 8.30am and 12.30 pm and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 7.45am to 8.00 am.
5. Judging will commence at 8.00 am sharp on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May and no further entries will be accepted at that time.
6. Entries must be collected from the Show between 5pm and 6 pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
7. Entries should have been produced since June 2017.
8. Entries will be on display over the period of the show.
9. For honey entries standard 500gm glass jars with your selected 4-digit\* ID number on the bottom of each are required.

#### CLASSES:

1. Liquid Honey, Very Light - 3x 500gm jars (0-15 Pfund)	9. Beeswax - Candles – Natural Colour, Moulded x 2 Candles
2. Liquid Honey, Light - 3 x 500gm jars (16-34 Pfund)	10. Beeswax – Dipped Candles – Natural Colour – less than 3cm diameter- X 2 Candles
3. Liquid Honey, Medium - 3x 500gm jars (35-59 Pfund)	11. Beeswax – Moulds – Natural Colour – 2 Moulds
4. Liquid Honey, Dark - 3x 500gm jars (60-120 Pfund)	12. Pollen – Cleaned and dried – 1 x 500gm jar
5. Natural Granulation Honey (Candied) - 3 x 500gm jars	13. Comb Honey – Built in hive – 1 x Ideal Frame – Displayed in a sealed case
6. Creamed honey - 3 x 500gm jars	14. Comb Honey – Built in hive – 1 x Langstroth frame - Displayed in sealed case
7. Liquid Chunk Honey – with comb, same source - 3 x 500gm jars	15. Sweet Mead – 2 x 750ml unlabeled bottles.
8 Beeswax - Natural Colour, 1 Block not less than 500g.	16. Dry Mead – 2 x 750ml unlabeled bottles

The entry form for apiary products is printed at the end of this newsletter.

## Honey for sale

Club members can sell their own honey at the St Ives Show with the club taking a 10% commission. Sale honey can also be given to Sandy at the coming meeting. The club will only accept 20 jars of each honey line for initial placement on the stall. Extra stock may be added after there have been good sales across the range of all member's sales stock.

Members of the club executive will coordinate the operation of the stall and will control the initial placement and addition of members stock for sale.

Sandy will organise a roster of members to operate the stall. Remember if you have honey for sale you must be available operate the stall.

## Preparing hives for winter

Sheryl is a long standing member and a very experienced and knowledgeable beekeeper.

Despite the IT gremlins preventing a great slide show Sheryl gave an informative presentation on packing bees down for winter. She mentioned:

1. The use of clearing boards to ensure that the upper boxes are free of bees before pack down.
2. The need for reserve honey in the hives for bees to use over winter.
3. Keeping the boxes that have been removed free of pests over the winter months.
4. The great care needed when dealing with Phostoxin as a fumigant.

Remember the old adage "it isn't the cold but rather the lack of food that kills bees over winter".

This presentation will be repeated at a later date.

## Our next meeting

This meeting will be on 09-May-18 starting at 7:30 pm prompt in the James Ruse Lecture Theatre. Remember the security gates to the Ag Plot will be locked at 7:30 pm so don't be caught on the wrong side of the fence.

Mark Page, NSW DPI Biosecurity Officer will be speaking on his role and how he can assist amateur beekeepers.

## Sugar Shake at Parramatta



April is sugar shake awareness month, an initiative of the NSW DPI. Over 40 sugar shake kits were donated to the club from the DPI and distributed via the "Parramatta loan officers".

The sugar shake process is primarily intended to check for varroa. Arthur Garske demonstrated the process at the March meeting. There are abundant resources available in the April/May 2018 ABA journal.

You can download the relevant articles at ABA website >> News >> TAB – The ABA Journal >> thence scroll

down for April/May issue

The nature of beekeeping is changing. Ten years ago the club would have been providing members with information about packing hives down for winter. Now while we still need to pack hives down we also need to check for varroa and do a quick brood check.

## The club calendar

9 May 2018	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting
18, 19, 20 May 2018	St Ives Show
18, 19, 20 May 2018	ABA Conference, AGM and Col Pulling Competition at Diggers @ The Entrance (further details TBA)
13 June 2018	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting Feature: The Role of the ABA in Protecting Honey Production in Australia with Bruce White
11 July 2018	No Meeting Event: Christmas in July
8 August 2018	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting - Feature: TBA
12 September 2018	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting - Feature: TBA
10 October 2018	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting - Feature: TBA
14 November 2018	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting - Feature: TBA
12 December 2018	No Meeting Event: Christmas Member (and Family) BBQ

## The Library

Rumour has it that people who read are going back to books instead of computers.

The Bee Club Library has a good selection of books about BEES. Some of the books are old, but nothing much has changed with the way bees behave since they came into existence.

If you would like to borrow a book there are a few simple requirements.

1. You must be a registered member of the Bee Club.
2. If your registration includes any of your family, who may want to borrow a book then it is preferred the registered member of the family borrow the book in their name.
3. After you have selected a book from the collection you must give your name and contact details to the librarian.

The library is still in our old meeting room which will be open on the night of our monthly meeting from 6.45pm till 7.15pm for those who wish to look at and borrow books.

You can also select a book from our library list that was published in the March edition of our newsletter and email me your choice of book.

I will have the book ready for you at the end of the meeting

Just before the next meeting I will send you a reminder about your book.

If after borrowing the book you cannot attend the next meeting, please let me know.



One of the reasons for this message is because I have lost a book from the collection.  
The title is: BEEKEEPING, book No. 18  
If you have accidentally borrowed the book without giving your details could you, please return it.

Information from Bill Dick – your ever vigilant librarian at [wdi57088@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wdi57088@bigpond.net.au)

**Now about being locked out/in by the bl ! ! ! ! gate**

Our new meeting space, the Lecture Theatre at James Ruse, is a wonderful venue allowing us to overcome the crowding and discomfort of the classroom.

However one condition of our move to the lecture theatre is that we maintain security of the agriculture area. A gate left unlocked with no bee club members in the Ag area is an invitation for outsiders to enter the school with the associated risk of damage and theft.

At the last meeting some members were inconvenienced when arriving or leaving.

While we all become used to the new system an executive member will be at the gate for a short time after the meeting has started to admit latecomers and will ensure that the gate is opened promptly at the end of the meeting.

You can make this system work by ensuring that you are inside the gate by 7:15 pm

**This newsletter edited by Dave Wilson at [secretary@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:secretary@beekeepers.asn.au)**



**NORTHERN SUBURBS AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY INC**

**APICULTURE ENTRY FORM – ST IVES SHOW 2018**

**Exhibits, Entry Forms & Payments due in person**

**Entries can be delivered and entered at:**

**Parramatta ABA Meeting - 6.45 pm to 7.15 pm Wednesday May 9th OR**

**At St Ives Showground - 8:30am -12:30pm Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 OR**

**At St Ives Showground - 7.45am - 8.00 am Saturday May 19th 2018**

Your ID Number	PARTICULARS OF ENTRY	FEE
Example -1234	3 x LIQUID HONEY	\$2
	Total Number Entries:	Total \$

*Entrants are asked to refer to the schedule for conditions of entry.*

*I agree that the above item/s shall be subject to the conditions of entry of the Northern Suburbs A&H Society Inc and I shall abide by any decision of the Committee thereto and shall not hold the Society responsible for any loss, damage or wrongful delivery of same.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/ 2018

**NAME PLEASE PRINT** \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Digit Code \_\_\_\_ \_ \*

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

\* Your honey will be blind judged. The four digit code can be the last 4 digits of your home or mobile phone or any combination 4 digit number you like. Entries must not have any labels and should all carry your 4 digit code attached under the entry, for identification.