



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW PARRAMATTA

October 2020

Newsletter of the Parramatta Amateur Beekeepers Inc

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

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

Join us on Facebook



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

Welcome to our 257 members!

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**OCTOBER IS AFB
AWARENESS MONTH!**



President: Robyn Alderton e: parramatta.president@beekeepers.asn.au
Secretary: Dave Wilson e: parramatta.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au
Treasurer: Andrew Bardsley e: parramatta.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au
Newsletter deadline to submit material – 20th of each month

October presentation – what you need to know about replacing a queen

By: Dave Wilson, PAB Executive

For our October on-line event, we are pleased Dave will be presenting to us on ‘what you need to know about replacing a queen.

Note: All members have received an email invite to the October meeting. Follow the directions and you are on your way to being present for Dave’s Presentation.

President’s report

By Robyn Alderton, President

Thank you to the 45 members (and visitors) who dialled in to Google Meets for our September on-line meeting held on Wednesday, 9 September 2020.

If you would like to dial in to future meetings but are unsure, please contact one of your friendly Executive members for assistance prior to the next scheduled on-line meeting.

If you would like to view the recording of the September Presentation, by Peter Clark on Swarms, click on the link below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1URx-Q6KV_sKyOLsUPfAvHLtgrqPQpALQ/view

Members have been invited directly through email, however, you can also click on the link below at 7.30 pm on 14 October for the October Monthly Club (ON-LINE) event.

<https://meet.google.com/htz-ntjw-ved?authuser=0>

Please join us for our monthly on-line meetings, the PAB executive look forward to seeing you.

Kind regards Robyn Alderton on behalf of your Executive

Your Executive continues to be hard at work. Please refer to the Executive Report for a monthly summary.

Reminder: With the intent of maintaining a relationship with our members, we are running a (free) raffle.

Our Club Raffle is a means of maintaining relationships with our members during the COVID-19 restrictions. Please note that tickets for this raffle cannot be purchased and members must either nominate themselves or be nominated by another member, but only once (a member cannot be nominated by two people for the same act of kindness). To be eligible to be in the draw, members can -

1. purchase goods through the club shop, earning one raffle ticket for each \$10 spent (or part thereof - \$7.50 being the rounding figure), eg, a purchase of \$18 will earn two tickets.
2. conduct a random act of beekeeping related kindness, either for the benefit of another member or the club itself, earning one raffle ticket for each occasion/nomination.

All appropriate nominations received by the President will have tickets allocated and the raffle will be drawn at the [December on-line meeting](#).

See below for inspiration – the list continues to grow – you have to be in it to win it!




Nominee	Reason	Nominator
Bob Mansfield	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Troy Ward	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Malcolm McGregor	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Sandy Harrison	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Grant Logan	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Howie Dahdah	For contributing to the October newsletter	Robyn Alderton
Toufic Esber	For contributing to the October newsletter	Robyn Alderton
Guy Challis	Helping with advice on dealing with a tricky swarm early in September	Chris Howe
Guy Challis	Helping with advice on catching and working with a swarm	Chris Howe
Scott Whittaker	For mowing the apiary following winter	Dave Wilson
George Gourlay	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Bill Dick	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Gretta Francis	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Dave Wilson	For supporting learners in their Beginning in Bees Online Training	George Gourlay
Sandy Harrison	For contributing to the September newsletter	Robyn Alderton
<i>Marina Tuskan</i>	<i>For reviewing the monthly Newsletter</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Agapi Tsampazi</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>Greg Williams</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>Daniel LaGuidara</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>Andrew Bardsley</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>James Lowe</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>Sandy Harrison</i>	<i>For providing a Newsletter article</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Veronica Roelink</i>	<i>For advising an 'In the Media' story about bees</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Jamie Thompson</i>	<i>Donation of a book 'Queen Spotting' to the club library</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Brian Luttrell</i>	<i>For advising an 'In the Media' story about bees</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Veronica Roelink</i>	<i>Not for the mumma joke however for her story on 'Managing a Warre Hive'.</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Guy Challis</i>	<i>For supplying his Beehive Store photo</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Jamie Thomson</i>	<i>For providing a Newsletter article</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Jamie Thomson</i>	<i>For providing a Q&A for the Newsletter</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Margaret McGregor</i>	<i>For submitting another photo for the 2021 calendar</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Guy Challis</i>	<i>For forwarding the details of a BBC article "A Bee C: Scientists translate honeybee queen duets"</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>George Gourlay</i>	<i>For submitting a Newsletter article</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>

Nominee	Reason	Nominator
Jamie Thomson	For providing the correct reason how a 'super' got its name	Robyn Alderton
Margaret McGregor	For providing the correct reason how a 'super' got its name	Robyn Alderton
Timothy Kotlar	For providing the correct reason how a 'super' got its name	Robyn Alderton
Norm Webb	For submitting a Newsletter article warning members about 'brood theft'	Robyn Alderton
Arthur Garske	For providing the correct reason how a 'super' got its name	Robyn Alderton
Marina Tuskan	For providing the correct reason how a 'super' got its name	Robyn Alderton
Marina Peterson	For providing the correct reason how a 'super' got its name	Robyn Alderton
Guy Challis	Raised an important issue about a new kind of comb that is not really comb.	Dave Wilson
Timothy Kotlar	For submitting another photo for the 2021 calendar.	Robyn Alderton
Guy Challis	In celebration of World Bee Day - for advising the Executive of the availability of a documentary about bees (supported by the When Bee Foundation). The ABA were contacted and requested to communicate this information to all ABA members.	Robyn Alderton
Dave Wilson	For the development of online Beginning in Bees Training material.	Robyn Alderton
Margaret McGregor	For developing a Frame Making video to be used for online training.	Robyn Alderton
Malcolm McGregor	For developing a Frame Making video to be used for online training.	Robyn Alderton
Bill Dick	June Newsletter contributor	Robyn Alderton
Arthur Garske	June Newsletter contributor	Robyn Alderton
Steve Alderton	June Newsletter contributor	Robyn Alderton
Marina Tuskan	Completed the Find-a-Word puzzle	Robyn Alderton
Marina Tuskan	Pointed out the errors in the Find-a-Word puzzle	Robyn Alderton
Arthur Garske	Completed the Find-a-Word puzzle	Robyn Alderton
Arthur Garske	Tenacity in an attempt to find the word 'blue' in the Find-a-Word puzzle	Robyn Alderton
Timothy Kotlar	Completed the Find-a-Word puzzle	Robyn Alderton
Timothy Kotlar	Pointed out the errors in the Find-a-Word puzzle	Robyn Alderton
Gary Christoffel	Act of kindness - provided beekeeping advice to new members	Marina Tuskan
Marina Tuskan	Act of kindness - volunteered to review PAB materials	Robyn Alderton
Robbie Ashhurst	Random act of kindness - tidied the apiary	Robyn Alderton
Peter Clarke	Col Pulling quiz participant	Robyn Alderton
Steve Alderton	Col Pulling quiz participant	Robyn Alderton

Nominee	Reason	Nominator
<i>Andrew Bardsley</i>	<i>Col Pulling quiz participant</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Sheryl McIntosh</i>	<i>Col Pulling quiz participant</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Guy Challis</i>	<i>Col Pulling quiz participant</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Norm Webb</i>	<i>Col Pulling honey entries</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Dave Wilson</i>	<i>Act of kindness - worked in the apiary</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Arthur Garske</i>	<i>Act of kindness - worked in the apiary</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Guy Challis</i>	<i>Act of kindness - worked in the apiary</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Timothy Kotlar</i>	<i>For submitting a photo for the 2021 calendar</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Bill Dick</i>	<i>Newsletter contributor</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Arthur Garske</i>	<i>Newsletter contributor</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Guy Challis</i>	<i>For submitting photos for the 2021 calendar</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Bill Dick</i>	<i>For submitting a swarm/nest photo for the Newsletter</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>

Note: Details in 'blue italics' above were published in the May and June Newsletters
New nominees are shown in Black type.

Prizes on offer are:

Decapping pinwheel	Vented escape board	A bucket strainer
		

All nominations to be sent to the President. The raffle will be drawn at the December on-line meeting. The plan was to draw the raffle at the first club event where we could meet at the school, however, that does not look like any time soon. We will consider starting a new raffle for 2021. Tickets cannot be purchased for this raffle.

Stay safe and stay connected and I look forward to catching up with you on-line!

Did you Know?

Bees love blue and cluster plants like lavender and rosemary.

Executive report – 16 September 2020

By Dave Wilson, Secretary

The PAB Executive meeting was again held as a virtual meeting on 16-Sep-20.

Robyn Alderton, Steve Alderton, Sandy Harrison, Margaret McGregor, Malcolm McGregor, Lod Porretta, Dave Wilson, Peter Clarke, Andrew Bardsley, Arthur Garske and Bill Dick were all present. There were no apologies.

Andrew Bardsley presented the financial report for July and August 2020. The closing balance at the bank showed a credit of \$7611. Over that period there had been \$268.32 income from the shop with minimal expenses.

Robyn provided a summary of the minutes of the most recent ABA Executive meeting.

The club has an obligation to ensure that all of our mains operated equipment (fridges, signs, hot knives etc) have a check for electrical safety each year. While this has been on hold due to COVID-19 Sandy Harrison will try to progress this.

Bill Dick and Sandy Harrison will also investigate ways the club library can make its resources more available to members.

The school has offered the club the use of its power mower to pull the trailer to transport honey supers from the apiary to the extracting room. This is being considered.

The online training course for new beekeepers is underway with some 24 students with 1 person having completed the course.

Malcolm McGregor and Arthur Garske have developed short video clips on various aspects of beekeeping. Andrew Bardsley is editing these with view to having them available to members and other people interested in beekeeping.

Peter Clarke has purchased and installed a new stainless steel table for the extracting room and has also completed repairs to one of the “loan “extractors.

Dave Wilson to be the next on-line presenter – topic queens at the October club gathering.

Sandy and Robyn are planning the Christmas event. It may be at the school, at a park or be a virtual party.

The old failing club laptop has been donated to charity.

Malcolm and Margaret McGregor will be attending the virtual ABA Biosecurity training day.

Dave Wilson and Arthur Garske are to check the club hives and make them ready for use by new beekeepers as part of their practical training.

The school required a detailed COVID-19 safety plan from the club. This was provided by Sandy with input from Peter Clarke.

The executive asked the Secretary to contact the ABA Executive with their concerns over the lack of information provided by the DPI about AFB outbreaks.

Club meeting records are maintained by Dave Wilson. Should you require further information, please contact Dave on parramatta.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au

Breast cancer awareness month – Nuplas pink hives!

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and your club is supporting this great cause. We have pre-ordered 2 pink x 8 frame boxes which will be placed in the apiary and a further 6 x 8 frame boxes for sale in the club shop to members.

The new pink hives will not be available until November however anyone interested, should email the shop as soon as possible to secure their pink 8 frame box at \$52.00 each.

Note: Nuplas will donate \$5.00 from every pink hive purchased, during October, to Breast Cancer Network Australia.

If you are a Breast Cancer Network supporter – take note – we only have **6** boxes on offer – so get in quick!



We're aiming to raise \$5,000 for every pink hive we sell during October

(What!!! Yep that's right, we said it – Nuplas have a new 'pink' coloured plastic beehive!)

To show our support for Breast Cancer Awareness month, we will be donating \$5 from every pink hive purchased during October to the Breast Cancer Network Australia.

Grab yourself a pink hive today and help raise money for breast cancer research.

[Find out more](#)



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Apiarist Supplies

Beginning in Bees (on-line) training update!

By: Robyn Alderton

We are pleased to announce that the 2nd Beginning in Bees training course has commenced and most members are well on their way to completing.

The next in-take will be **available soon!** An Eventbrite announcement will be communicated via your email.

A huge **CONGRATULATIONS** to PABs initial course completers -

- George Gourlay
- Jono Williamson
- Hayden Gerrie
- Omer Can Sirikci
- Aaron Vella
- Federica Bergonzoni

We hope you enjoy the second part of your training - the field day in the Apiary.

Extracting, amateur style – a whole lot of ‘sticky’fun!

By: Robyn and Steve Alderton

One of the best features about keeping bees is having the joy of harvesting your own honey.

There are many ways to complete the task and there are different types of equipment available to extract honey. The following pages show just one way of extracting honey from Langstroth hives. Langstroth hives are popular, they are simple to manage and it is believed that the honey yield is higher.

You may not be in a position to purchase your own extracting equipment, however, members will have the ability to loan the necessary tools and equipment required to extract honey. Refer to the end of the Newsletter for your PAB Extractor custodian.

First, the hives are inspected for frames that are full of honey. Since bees can get a bit defensive when their home is broken into, we smoke the bees gently with a smoker.



The bee free frames are then placed temporarily into a plastic crate with a lid (to keep away robber bees).



Note: Extracting honey is easier to do when the honey is still warm, from the hive, as honey will flow more freely.



The honey-laden frames are removed from the hive (or as a minimum, we check that at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cells are capped with wax before we remove them for extraction). We give the frame a good strong shake so that the bees fall off the frame and back into the hive. Then we gently flick any remaining bees off with a soft bee brush.

Now off to the “honey shed” to get down to the ‘sticky’ business of extracting!



We don't have power at the farm so we have to heat up our uncapping knives by gas in a boiler.

Note: We now have a generator and use an electric uncapping knife..



No finger-licking allowed! A bucket of fresh water is on hand to clean sticky fingers throughout the extraction process.

Note: Uncapping knives are a tool, with graded edges, that when heated and run down the frame, remove the wax cappings the bees have placed over the ripened honey cells.

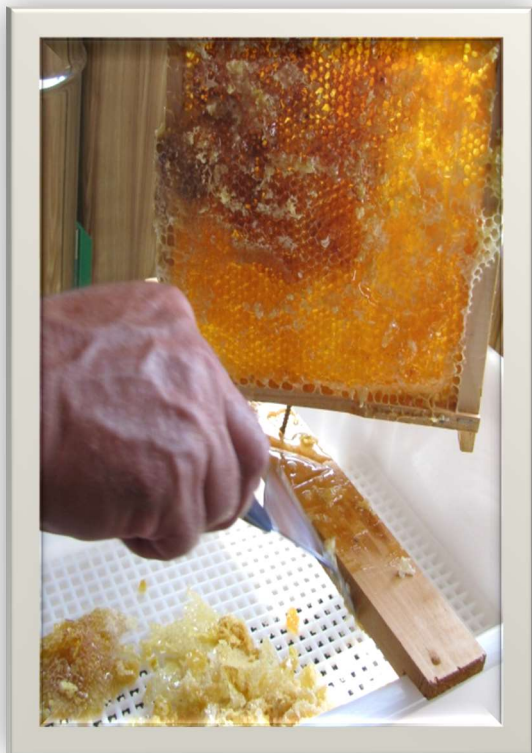
To remove wax cappings from the frames of honey, hold the frame vertically over the uncapping unit (on the wooden support), if you can lean it slightly forward it enables the wax cappings to fall directly into the uncapping unit as they're removed. Manoeuvre the hot uncapping knife in a side-to-side motion similar to that of cutting bread, and the wax will melt on contact.



Sometimes cells are too low for the uncapping knife to reach, when this happens, we gently use a scratcher (uncapping fork) to break the wax seal covering the cells.



Uncapped wax will fall into the uncapping tank. Uncappings can be used for making mead, placed in an uncapping bag and spun in the extractor or kept for bee's wax projects at a later date. Or you can place the wax cappings in a wax press to squeeze out even more honey.



When the wax seal has been removed or broken on the frames, put the frames into the honey extractor. Place frames so that they are facing the same direction. Put the lid on and start cranking. Start spinning slowly at first, building up speed as you progress. Don't spin the frames as fast as you can, because extreme centrifugal force will damage the delicate wax comb.

After spinning for 5 minutes (approximately), turn all the frames to expose the opposite sides. After another 5 minutes of spinning, the comb will be empty.



Note: A honey extractor is a device used to release honey from the comb. Inside the extractor is a spinning cage to hold the frames (this extractor holds 3 frames at a time – we have now updated to a frame extractor) while they are spun around and around at increasing speed, taking advantage of centrifugal force. The spinning can be achieved either manually or by means of an electric motor (ours is a manual device). This spinning force releases the honey from the frames and throws it to the sides of the extractor. The honey then drips down to the bottom of the extractor. Note in the photograph that all top bars are positioned to the left.

Note: As the honey level in the extractor tank increases, the honey in the extractor will 'drag' on the wire baskets and it becomes increasingly difficult to turn the crank. You need to drain off some of the harvest into a food grade bucket before continuing.

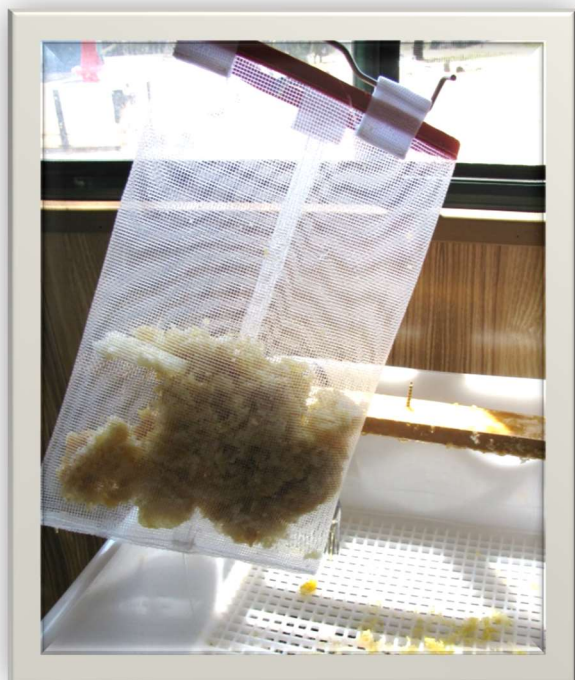


Open the valve at the bottom of the extractor and allow the honey to filter through a honey strainer and into your bottling bucket. We add a 450 micron Nytrel cloth between the strainers. The sieves and Nytrel cloth will strain any foreign matter, eg, bee parts and pieces of wax. The valve is opened up and out pours pure honey. The honey is then left overnight for the air bubbles to rise and escape to the surface.

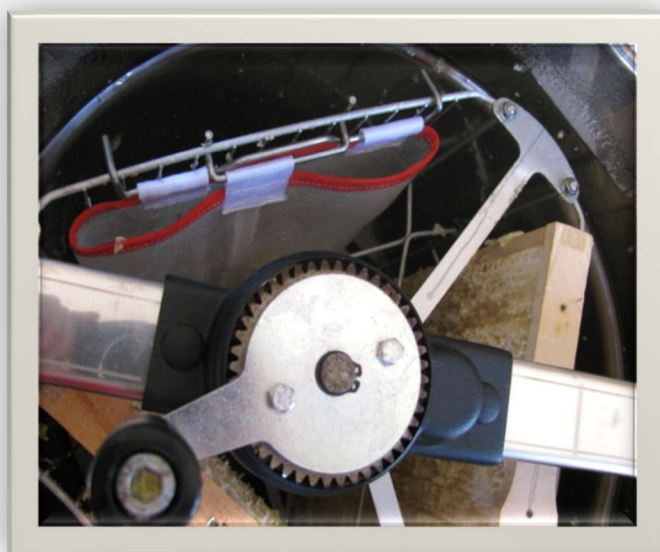


Following the decapping of all our frames, we collect the wax cappings and place them into an uncappings bag.

The uncappings bag is placed in the extractor (in place of one frame).



Note: due to the difference in weight and proportion of the uncappings bag, when spinning, the extractor will appear unbalanced.



Having enough sterilised honey jars and lids on hand is important. We use 500 g jars and can expect to require a minimum of 5 jars for each full frame of honey.



The proud moment where you brand your honey with your own label!



'Stickies' will now go back to the girls for cleaning up



Use the honey gate or valve in the bottling bucket to fill the jars with your honey.



... and back to the Honey Shed for us for the big clean up and pack away, ready to do it all over again!

... a note from Robyn - there is an age old saying 'ask 10 beekeepers the same beekeeping question and you will receive 12 different responses', it can no doubt be the same for information on the extraction process. Please remember, there are some fundamentals here however this is how extraction works for us.

This summary is in support of the article in the ABA newsletter presented by Arthur Garske.

Happy extracting to you all!

Bees in my garden

By: Bob Mansfield.

Since 2001 I have worked on my home "Secret Garden" and, like all gardeners, was very much aware of the plant pollination advantage afforded by visiting bees. I had no intention of introducing a European bee hive to help out but I did entertain the thought of getting a Native Bee Hive.... of stingless bees, from time to time. The expense involved did bother me somewhat though!

In the Spring of 2016, a swarm of European bees settled on a branch of a tree in the garden.

Their arrival was heralded with what I thought was a turbine, of some size, starting up several houses away! I thus witnessed the event when finally I focused on the thousands of bees responsible for the noise!

What to do? I had no idea! Minimal knowledge suggested that I should be able to capture it but, by the time I'd consulted "Mr Google", the swarm had moved on.

In the course of that consultation my interest was aroused and I then spent a lot of time researching the subject. In particular I looked at various sites related to what swarming was all about and how to build and locate a suitable lure box.

My main source of information to help me decide on a suitable box is to be found here...

www.horizontalhive.com ..under "Swarms".

A decided advantage here in such an endeavour is that my "Secret Garden" backs onto the Cooks River Reserve and all the Council planted, native shrubs and trees therein. The reserve extends westward to two golf courses and, further on, to Rookwood Cemetery. To the east the river courses through various reserves to the sea.

So, a box was constructed and located up in the mulberry tree, some lemongrass oil was introduced as an attractant and the wait began! Barely two weeks later scouts were noticed and the swarm arrived whilst I was at work - a pleasant surprise when I returned home that day!



Normally, the sequence of ensuing events would produce a viable nucleus colony. Suffice it to say that my experience was far from ideal. The bees were noticed to be unwell and the lot eventually succumbed because..... the scrounged ply, I used to make the box from, had been treated with an anti-termite agent! It took several days for the penny to drop!

NEXT: A new box was constructed from ply bought from the hardware shop!

I had to wait until this recent season (October 2017) to attract another swarm and again had the fantastic experience of witnessing its arrival (captured on video this time) and the "marching in" of thousands of bees.

This time things appeared to be going well until I appreciated that the colony was queenless! That, and subsequent developments, were negotiated however and I now have my first viable

colony/hive.

Sounds good! Attract one's own colony...at home! It gets better! The box was replaced in the tree and, on the 3 March the following year, another swarm was noticed to have taken up residence!

Way to go!

Of course, there is the possibility that one may capture one's own swarm.....worth thinking about maybe?

Free bee biosecurity training course

By: Robyn Alderton

Did you know that there is a free Biosecurity Training course available through Plant Health Australia?



This course is free for Aussie beekeepers to help protect the honey bee industry from pests and diseases. This course was previously only free for commercial beekeepers who had 50 or more hives with others having to pay a small fee. With AHBIC funding, this course is now free to all beekeepers. Just click on the following link to Register.

[Plant Health Australia free bee biosecurity training course](#) (accessed 25 August 2020)

October is AFB Awareness Month

By: Robyn Alderton

What is the aim of AFB Awareness Month? AFB affects and kills bees across Australia. It is a notifiable disease. That means you MUST alert the DPI within 24 hours if you find evidence of AFB or think your apiary has been infected. Many beekeepers find AFB tricky to identify.

AFB Awareness month is held every October and aims to:

- highlight awareness of American foulbrood, its impacts and best management practices
- encourage beekeepers to inspect their hives for signs of the disease
- promote reporting of the disease to NSW DPI

The campaign targets beekeepers and is a joint initiative between NSW DPI and the [Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW](#), the [North Shore Beekeepers Association](#), [NSW Apiarists' Association](#) and [Steritech](#).

American foulbrood (AFB) is a fatal and incurable brood disease of European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). AFB is present in Australia. Any hive can contract AFB and the disease can decimate an apiary. AFB spores are spread through contaminated honey and apiary products, hive parts and equipment. Robbing out of weak hives is a key means of spread. A single infected hive can quickly infect nearby hives as healthy bees rob out the contaminated honey. As more and more hives contract the disease, the cycle perpetuates leading to serious outbreaks that can impact entire regions.

For further information, click on the following link:

[DPI - for further information](#) accessed 25 August 2020

You can test for AFB by [preparing a slide \(PDF, 318.08 KB\)](#) and sending it, along with a https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/834250/emai-bee-disease-diagnostics-form-July2020.pdf for diagnosis to:

NSW DPI Laboratory Services

Courier address: Woodbridge Road,
Menangle NSW 2568

Postal address: Private Bag 4008,
Narellan NSW 2567, Phone: 1800 675
623

Email:

laboratory.services@dpi.nsw.gov.au

You can also use a field diagnostic AFB
test kit. These are available at
beekeeping suppliers.



Image above: Showing how to conduct an AFB check in a brood cell

AFB near me

By: Robyn Alderton

From July 2020 NSW DPI will collate a list of NSW postcodes where American foulbrood (AFB) notifications and detections were reported each month. Please see the table below for July and August notifications.

Please note that due to privacy considerations NSW DPI cannot discuss individual cases or provide more precise location information. Submissions where location of the hive was not reported cannot be included in this summary.

If you keep bees near a reported postcode it is best practice to inspect your colonies for AFB disease as soon as practical.

As of 1 July 2020 it is a condition of registration that all beekeepers in NSW meet their obligations regarding AFB under the [Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice](#). In particular please see sections 4 and 7 of the Code.

- [Further information on AFB management](#)
- [Sampling procedures for bee disease diagnosis \(PDF, 318.08 KB\)](#)
- [EMAI bee disease diagnostics form \(PDF, 472.8 KB\)](#)

If you require further information or support please email bee.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au with your request and providing your best contact details and a DPI bee biosecurity officer will contact you.

For further information about AFB near me, click on the following link.

[AFB near me](#) accessed 6 October 2020

Month	Postcodes with reported AFB cases
August 2020	2101, 2107, 2148, 2156, 2158, 2159, 2250, 2290, 2312, 2370, 2441, 2450, 2471, 2477, 2479, 2480, 2530, 2756, 2765, 2780, 2797
July 2020	2283, 2515, 2539, 2540, 2800, 2871 4 further reports were received without notifying hive location

AFB Notification to members

For your information, DPI NSW is changing the way beekeepers are notified of reported AFB cases in their local area. In the past emails were sent to registered beekeepers based on the Local Government Area (LGA) they are domiciled.

As some beekeepers migrate their bees, it was not possible to know where hot spots were. Going forward DPI will publish the relevant post codes on their website AFB near me, but no longer forward the information to beekeepers.

The ABA is working on a way to notify members automatically through post codes.

Have questions about beekeeping?

Please email Arthur with your beekeeping questions and we will publish questions and the responses in the newsletter for all to learn.

Do you have a warre or flow hive?

By: Robyn Alderton

We would like to add both a warre and flow hive to the apiary however we need members with experience to manage these hives and provide updates on progress and needs as and when required.

Do you have experience in either hive type and would like to help out the club and members? If yes, please contact me on parramatta.president@beekeepers.asn.au

In the Media ...

BeeAware Newsletter

Click on the link below to subscribe!

BeeAware Newsletter



<http://planthealthaustralia.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/j/E11EDCCF72C7FE662540EF23F30FEDED/E790B86091376D31F351F20C80B74D5E> accessed 2 October 2020

WA bee and forestry industries in unlikely alliance over honey producer access to trees

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-23/bee-honey-forest-industries-wa-beekeepers-australian-food/12693910> accessed 2 October 2020

Are you swarm ready?

Swarm season will be soon upon us.

Those new to beekeeping, are you swarm ready?

Follow the quick checklist below:

1. Are you registered with the DPI?
2. Have you had some **TRAINING** in basic bee handling?
3. Is your **HARDWARE** ready? bases, boxes, frames and foundation, lids.
4. Do you have some form of **SHB** management organised?
5. Do you have your **GEAR**, ie, bee suit and jacket, smoker, hive tool and brush?
6. Do you have a suitable **LOCATION** to place your hive?
7. Do you have a **MENTOR**?

You must be 'be ready' before you can participate in the Club's swarm program.

Your club will help you get on your way.

Cost:

Members following completion of PABs training course:	\$85.00
All other Members	\$110.00

The cost above includes 4 frames included in the Nuc box. You must swap the frames from the Nuc box into your own box at the time of pick-up or as arranged by the Member you are picking up from.

When you receive your swarm, you will be invoiced for payment. The invoice will be sent to your email. **DO NOT PRE-PAY FOR YOUR SWARM – YOU WILL BE INVOICED SEPARATELY.**

To advise the club of a swarm call Bill Dick, our swarm collector on: 0497 832 846.

To receive a swarm via the club, you must have completed or be in our training program, and added to the swarm list. To be added to the swarm list (to receive a swarm), contact Sandy Harrison on: 0448 600 324.

Meet my apiary – Mentor as anything!

By: Howie Dahdah

Serendipity played a big part in me getting into beekeeping. Little did I know when I moved to



Pennant Hills over three years ago that I would stumble upon a similarly minded bee enthusiast.



As some of you have probably gathered with our banter on and offline, Sandy Harrison is my next door neighbour.

When we moved to Greenhaven Drive, it didn't take long for me to realise Sandy was also a beekeeper. This was exciting news! I had been fascinated by beekeeping for around 10 years. Apartment living and strata restrictions however, limited me to only dreaming about having bees. When I told her about my interest, in true Sandy fashion she was immediately inclusive and willing to share all she knew about beekeeping. This generosity has not waned. On one occasion early in the piece, I recall Peter and Lod turning up with a nucleus containing a swarm they had collected. Sandy passed me her spare bee suit and gloves so I could get close and observe. I loved it.



From the start, Sandy encouraged me to join the bee club, but I didn't do it until after I got my first swarm. That came from my wife's Uncle Geoff, who has kept bees since the 1970's. He was no longer a member of his local club. His knowledge is extensive, and I took advice from him at the beginning. However, he was always busy or hard to reach. Soon after I joined the Parramatta Amateurs Beekeeping club.

I immediately realised there are passionate beekeepers who have a wealth of knowledge about their chosen hobby. Learning all you need to know can be overwhelming. I recall my first few meetings and being impressed by how much the collective knew. I have realised in my three short years of beekeeping that you can accumulate much knowledge by truly listening to those who have experience. Since my foray into beekeeping, Sandy has been present to assist me almost always when opening my hives. I also have a friend Danny, who is passionate about sharing his words of wisdom. He is an intelligent self taught beekeeper.



The beginner's course, the PAB organizes, was incredibly helpful. I was fortunate to do the course with Arthur Garske last year. I also find the Q and A after our monthly bee meetings very useful. I usually have 10 times more questions to ask but settle on whatever questions have been posed and responded to. Reading also plays a big role in increasing my understanding. The PAB club's monthly newsletter and the articles contained in the Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW's *The Amateur Beekeeper* journal are a great read. I get excited when I see them in my inbox! There is always some interesting piece of information - whether it is about the practicalities of rooftop beehives or the requirements of correctly labeling your honey.

Several years ago when my son was in preschool, I asked Sandy to come to the preschool and speak to the children about bees. By day, I am a primary school teacher. Recently the Year 4 teachers at my school asked if I could talk to the children about bees and their role in food production. Sharing this experience with my colleagues and students made me realise that I have learnt a lot about bees and how to care for them in the last couple of years. I felt more than confident speaking, and the children were in awe. I guess they didn't expect a teacher at their school to have such a pastime and knowledge on a topic. For this presentation I drew on Prof Andrew Barron's speech that was in our club's August meeting. This was brilliantly informative. Just the day before, I had read Arthur's article from our September newsletter on 'When to open your hives following winter'. It's amazing how much of an expert you can sound when you piggyback off others.

Out the front of Sandy's house is her sign advertising her honey for sale. One of her repeat customers are husband and wife Shalako and Greta, fellow Greenhavers. When they expressed an interest in bees, Sandy invited them to the Christmas in July party last year. They also completed the same bee course I did with Arthur. And by the time you read this, they should have acquired their first swarm. I feel excited for them as they begin their beekeeping journey. Because that is what beekeeping is - a bit of fun? Around the bend from Sandy and me, is another beekeeper quietly making his honey. For a small street, Greenhaven Drive is doing its bit for bee health and biodiversity. In the meantime, we keep on learning.

Thank you, Howie – love your 'story'- a raffle ticket has your name on it!

Club shop

By Lod Porretta, Stores Officer

Due to COVID-19, the club shop is closed however you can [email your order](#) to the Stores Officer.

Submit your order by Monday. The Stores Officer will advise the cost. Payment to be submitted electronically. After clearance of funds in the club account, an advice will be sent and goods can be collected the following Wednesday from Castle Hill (pm).

Members are encouraged to support PAB by purchasing their beekeeping goods from the club shop whenever possible.

Reminder: Club shop purchases entitles you to raffle tickets – drawn in December.

Special!

The store has a couple of treated, assembled and painted boxes for sale in the shop available for the low price of \$45 each. These boxes are of superior quality, they are:

- Shaped with rounded corners
- Nailed in all dove tails
- Dipped in copper naphthanate to prevent rot
- Primed with oil based anti bleed primer paint
- Box faces painted with two coats of full gloss acrylic paint
- Box edges painted with two coats of full gloss oil-based paint

This product is produced in Australia and made from A-Grade timber.

A quality product made by beekeepers for beekeepers.

Members are encouraged to support their club shop and purchase their beekeeping goods from the club shop whenever possible.



Reminder: the store also stocks assembled screened stainless-steel mesh bottom boards.

These bottom boards are made to fit 8 frame boxes and come unpainted.

They include removable slide out tray for lime etc. These screen bottom boards are available for the bargain price of \$49.00.



Shop email: Lod Porretta parramatta.stores@beekeepers.asn.au

The following items are available to purchase in the Club Shop:

- Beetle Traps
- Bottom Boards
- Boxes
- Bee Brush
- Cleats
- Chemicals
- Eyelets
- Electric Embedder
- Foundation
- Frames
- Frame Wire
- Glass Jars
- Gloves
- Hive Closers
- Hive Locks
- Hive Tools - J
- Honey Gate
- Jackets/Suits
- Lids
- Plastic Buckets
- Risers
- Smokers
- Spur Wheels
- Strainers & Cloths
- Uncapping Boxes

If the item(s) you seek are not listed above, just email your friendly Stores Officer to see if, in fact, the item is in stock.

Handy contact details

Position	Position Holder	Contact Details
President	Robyn Alderton	parramatta.president@beekeepers.asn.au
Vice President and Bio Security Officer	Dave Wilson	parramatta.vp@beekeepers.asn.au
Secretary	Dave Wilson	parramatta.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au
Treasurer	Andrew Bardsley	parramatta.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au
Stores Officer	Lod Porretta	parramatta.stores@beekeepers.asn.au
Apiary Officers	Dave Wilson and Arthur Garske	parramatta.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au awgarske@gmail.com
Events Coordinator	Sandy Harrison	parramatta.events@beekeepers.asn.au
Member Officer	Steve Alderton	parramatta.membership@beekeepers.asn.au
Colony Distribution Officer	Bill Dick	parramatta.swarms@beekeepers.asn.au
Education Officer	Arthur Garske	awgarske@gmail.com
Extractor Custodian Officer - east	Sandy Harrison	parramatta.events@beekeepers.asn.au
Extractor Custodian Officer- west	Andrew Bardsley	parramatta.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au

What's on in 2020

Date	Time/Event	Feature/Comment
14 October	On-line 7.30 pm Parramatta Club Event	October Club Event Presenter: Dave Wilson Topic: What you need to know about replacing a queen
21 October	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line
11 November	On-line 7.30 pm Parramatta Club Event	November Club Event Presenter: TBC Topic: Apiary management over the heat of summer - TBC
18 November	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line
9 December	6.00 pm Parramatta Club Event	December Club Event Christmas fun – details to come and there will be PRIZES! Raffle drawn!
16 December	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line – over summer management plan for the apiary and 2021 planning
10 March 2021	Monthly Club Event	March 2021 Club Event Presenter: Professor Andrew Barron- Topic TBA.

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