



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 262 members!

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The honey bee is the only insect that produces food eaten by man.

November presentation – apiary management over the potential heat of summer

Presentation by: Bruce White

Our November guest speaker is Bruce White. Bruce will present on ‘apiary management over the potential heat of summer’.

We are extremely fortunate that Bruce continues to be an active member of the ABA and has agreed to present at our November Club Event.



Bruce began in bees while at primary school. He worked at the NSW Department of Agriculture for 43 years as an apiary officer. Bruce has served on the RIRDC Honey Bee Research and Development Advisory Committee and the New South Wales Apiarist Association, had an active role in the Australian Queen Bee Breeding program and has contributed to beekeeping education and biosecurity. He has served as an ambassador for the beekeeping industry to over 25 countries, including New Zealand, Russia, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, United Arab Emirates, Germany, England, Korea, Thailand and Tonga. He has served as a honey judge both locally and internationally.

Now retired, Bruce continues to generously contribute his time, knowledge and experience to beekeeper education, in particular to the burgeoning hobbyist sector. In 2009 Bruce received the Goodacre Award, in 2011 an Order of Australia Medal and the AHBIC Award of Excellence for services to the beekeeping industry and in 2018 was recognised and honoured by the Royal Agricultural Society as an ‘Easter Show Legend’.

President's report

By Robyn Alderton

Thank you to all who dialled in to Google Meets for our October on-line meeting and to those who reviewed the video at a later date.

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 October Meeting with a Presentation, by Dave Wilson on Re-queening - click on the link below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C2R9bIH-5mEr_kSlSc-OqKnZUPIKH9f4/view

Members have been invited directly through email, however, you can also click on the link below for 7.30 pm on 11 November for the November 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
Marina Tuskan	For continuing to review the monthly Newsletter	Robyn Alderton
Narelle Jamison	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Dorin Picu	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Federica Bergonzoni	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Ömer Can Sirikci	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Gretta Francis	For contributing to the November Newsletter	Robyn Alderton
Shalako Francis	For contributing to the November Newsletter	Robyn Alderton
Ömer Can Sirikci	For providing advice about the Tocal Online Beekeeping event	Robyn Alderton
Marina Tuskan	For providing advice about the Tocal Online Beekeeping event	Robyn Alderton
<i>Bob Mansfield</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>Troy Ward</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>Malcolm McGregor</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>Sandy Harrison</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>Grant Logan</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>Howie Dahdah</i>	<i>For contributing to the October newsletter</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Toufic Esber</i>	<i>For contributing to the October newsletter</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Guy Challis</i>	<i>Helping with advice on dealing with a tricky swarm early in September</i>	<i>Chris Howe</i>
<i>Guy Challis</i>	<i>Helping with advice on catching and working with a swarm</i>	<i>Chris Howe</i>
<i>Scott Whittaker</i>	<i>For mowing the apiary following winter</i>	<i>Dave Wilson</i>
<i>George Gourlay</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>Bill Dick</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>
<i>Gretta Francis</i>	<i>For purchases from the club shop</i>	<i>Lod Porretta</i>

Nominee	Reason	Nominator
Dave Wilson	For supporting learners in their Beginning in Bees Online Training	George Gourlay
Sandy Harrison	For contributing to the September newsletter	Robyn Alderton
Marina Tuskan	For reviewing the monthly Newsletter	Robyn Alderton
Agapi Tsampazi	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Greg Williams	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Daniel LaGuidara	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Andrew Bardsley	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
James Lowe	For purchases from the club shop	Lod Porretta
Sandy Harrison	For providing a Newsletter article	Robyn Alderton
Veronica Roelink	For advising an 'In the Media' story about bees	Robyn Alderton
Jamie Thompson	Donation of a book 'Queen Spotting' to the club library	Robyn Alderton
Brian Luttrell	For advising an 'In the Media' story about bees	Robyn Alderton
Veronica Roelink	Not for the mumma joke however for her story on 'Managing a Warre Hive'.	Robyn Alderton
Guy Challis	For supplying his Beehive Store photo	Robyn Alderton
Jamie Thomson	For providing a Newsletter article	Robyn Alderton
Jamie Thomson	For providing a Q&A for the Newsletter	Robyn Alderton
Margaret McGregor	For submitting another photo for the 2021 calendar	Robyn Alderton
Guy Challis	For forwarding the details of a BBC article "A Bee C: Scientists translate honeybee queen duets"	Robyn Alderton
George Gourlay	For submitting a Newsletter article	Robyn Alderton
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

Nominee	Reason	Nominator
<i>Dave Wilson</i>	<i>For the development of online Beginning in Bees Training material.</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Margaret McGregor</i>	<i>For developing a Frame Making video to be used for online training.</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Malcolm McGregor</i>	<i>For developing a Frame Making video to be used for online training.</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Bill Dick</i>	<i>June Newsletter contributor</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Arthur Garske</i>	<i>June Newsletter contributor</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Steve Alderton</i>	<i>June Newsletter contributor</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Marina Tuskan</i>	<i>Completed the Find-a-Word puzzle</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Marina Tuskan</i>	<i>Pointed out the errors in the Find-a-Word puzzle</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Arthur Garske</i>	<i>Completed the Find-a-Word puzzle</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Arthur Garske</i>	<i>Tenacity in an attempt to find the word 'blue' in the Find-a-Word puzzle</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Timothy Kotlar</i>	<i>Completed the Find-a-Word puzzle</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Timothy Kotlar</i>	<i>Pointed out the errors in the Find-a-Word puzzle</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Gary Christoffel</i>	<i>Act of kindness - provided beekeeping advice to new members</i>	<i>Marina Tuskan</i>
<i>Marina Tuskan</i>	<i>Act of kindness - volunteered to review PAB materials</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Robbie Ashhurst</i>	<i>Random act of kindness - tidied the apiary</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Peter Clarke</i>	<i>Col Pulling quiz participant</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<i>Steve Alderton</i>	<i>Col Pulling quiz participant</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>
<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

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

for 2021. Tickets cannot be purchased for this raffle.

9 December 2020 Christmas club event

With the restrictions imposed by COVID and in view of our responsibility to our members and the school, the Executive has decided to hold a virtual Christmas party this year.

Agenda is as follows:

1. Conduct a short meeting
2. Draw the raffle
3. Choose Christmas fancy dress winners
4. Open QandA

***“ For Wednesday, 9 December at 6 o’clock,
Dust off your santa hat or Christmas frock.
Come with a drink – perhaps a beer or a wine,
Click on the link at the designated time.
And show us your Christmas fancy dress,
‘Cause we have prizes for the Christmas best!”***

We look forward to sharing some Christmas cheer with you all.

2020 Virtual beekeepers field day

If you missed the Tocal 2020 Virtual beekeepers field day on 17 October, you still have the opportunity to catch up, just click on the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa30fiiRFuoGCQk9m4BPX7ipcKA8_PN8S

Executive report – 21 October 2020

By Dave Wilson, Secretary

The PAB Executive meeting was again held as a virtual meeting on 21 October 2020.

Robyn Alderton, Steve Alderton, Sandy Harrison, Margaret McGregor, Malcolm McGregor, Dave Wilson, Arthur Garske and Bill Dick were all present. Apologies were received from Peter Clarke, Lod Porretta and Andrew Bardsley.

Andrew Bardsley had prepared the financial report for September 2020. The starting balance showed a credit of \$7,611.95 while the end of the month showed a credit of \$9520.00. Over that period there had been significant income from the shop, swarm collection and education.

The club has set quite rigorous standards to limit the risk of COVID-19 particularly at the school. This has limited our ability to test and tag electrical items and to manage the club library. Sandy Harrison and Bill Dick will follow these tasks through as soon as practicable.

There has been an ongoing issue about transporting heavy loads of beekeeping gear and honey to and from the apiary. Very generously the school has offered us the use of some equipment to help with this task. Some form of training for the executive will occur soon. This is being coordinated by Peter Clarke and Lod Porretta.

The online training course for new beekeepers is under way with another five students enrolled in the November class. Nine students have completed the theory component with eight having completed the practical component. Dave Wilson, Malcolm McGregor, Arthur Garske and Sandy Harrison all play a role in this initiative.

Work is underway by Andrew Bardsley on the PAB beekeeping video clips.

Bruce White will be the next on-line presenter – topic “Managing Your Hives in Summer” at the November club gathering.

Sandy and Robyn are planning the Xmas event which will be a virtual party.

Malcolm and Margaret McGregor reported that the virtual ABA Biosecurity training day was very valuable.

The school has invited the club to again provide a “Bee Experience Day for Year 7 Students”. Dave Wilson has started on the organisation of that event.

Dave Wilson and Arthur Garske have four nucleus hives with new queens. Two will be used to requeen existing hives and the remaining two will be used to start new hives. Two hives are being prepared for the Bee Experience day.

The school has very generously allowed the club access to a storage shed near the tennis courts. Following a move from one of the sheds to the other, Sandy Harrison and Dave Wilson have made a start on organising and tidying up the new space.


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

October was breast cancer awareness month

October was Breast Cancer Awareness month and your club has supported this important cause. We have pre-ordered 2 pink x 8 frame boxes which will be placed in the apiary. Congratulations also to those members who have showed their support through the purchase of pink boxes for their personal use.

The new pink hives will not be available until November, however anyone interested should email the club shop as soon as possible to secure their purchase, at a cost of \$52 each.

Note: Nuplas will donate \$5 from every pink hive purchased during October, to Breast Cancer Australia.




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](#)



better beekeeping. 

Beginning in Bees (on-line) training update

By: Robyn Alderton

By now you would have received the Eventbrite advice of the November Beginning in Bees online training course - open to PAB members. **As at 3 November 2020 - places still remain for this course.**

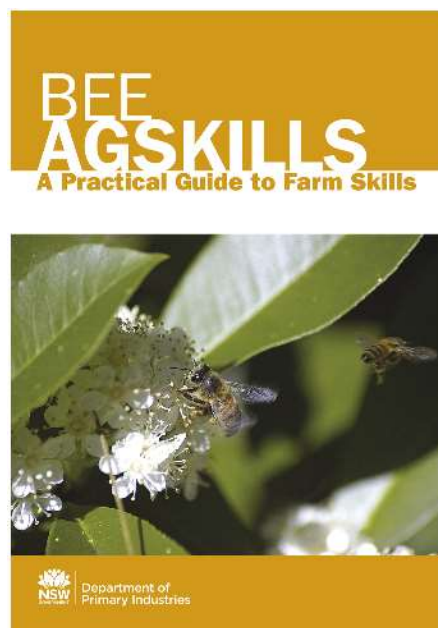
In case you misplaced the booking link – please see below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/beginning-in-bees-online-training-tickets-127394136291>

Slight change from past course offerings follows:

1. participants are now required to source their own copy of the Bee AgSkills Reference book. This hard or soft copy reference can be purchased direct from the Tocal College Bookshop through the following link:
<https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/publications/bees/bee-agskills>
2. participants will be supported for a 6 month period (no end date was previously provided)

Note: *The hands-on apiary training (for those who have completed or almost completed the online training) was scheduled for 31 October and 1 November 2020 however due to the predicted inclement weather has been cancelled. Apologies to all who were booked in – we will reschedule and confirm new dates as soon as possible.*



What happens when a DPI Inspector turns up at your door!

By: Sandy Harrison

This month I had a visit from the DPI. The reason - Nuisance Bees". We live near the bush in Pennant Hills and my hives are located at the back of my property, in proximity to a small public bush walk.

It appears that a member of the public was bush walking, noticed my hives and decided they should be reported and investigated. This individual made the complaint anonymously, thereby preventing a direct and personal response from myself. Had they presented themselves to me, I would have offered to take them on the same tour as I did the DPI inspector.

The inspector arrived without notice and luckily I happened to be at home. In the event I wasn't at home, she wouldn't have entered the property, instead leaving a card requesting follow up. A call centre took the initial call, which was then assigned to a departmental inspector. In this case the inspector had not spoken directly to the complainant.

At our meeting I took the opportunity to inform her of my association with PAB as an Executive member and explained my other roles within the club.

I showed her the apiary, properly secured and inaccessible to any passers-by. I then explained the bees' flight path - although the hive entrances face the bush, their flight path is actually in the opposite direction, above the neighbouring houses and away from the walking track.

The signage in my apiary conformed to DPI biosecurity ordinances. I also explained that any visitors to my property are advised of the existence of the hives and warned of the possible danger of anaphylaxis. The inspector reaffirmed that the maximum number of hives in a suburban setting is 2 - 3 and emphasised the importance of not situating hives near public facilities like swimming pools, schools etc to avoid potential conflict with neighbours.

I was then questioned about the use of tools at other apiary sites, my record keeping and my knowledge of Biosecurity guidelines. I was able to show her my record books, one for each individual hive as recommended, to facilitate ongoing monitoring. I went on to explain that PAB takes the issue of biosecurity extremely seriously, with regular training and education for members.

She seemed impressed with my level of knowledge and compliance with regulations and my passion for bees and beekeeping, however she indicated she would be in contact again if another complaint was received. She left me with two handouts, one dealing with Backyard Beekeeping in general and the other specifically setting out guidelines for Nuisance Bee Complaints.

Overall it was a positive experience, as I was able to demonstrate my apiary management practices and in so doing, reassure the inspector (and the complainant) of my desire to ensure my apiary fits in well with my local community.

My first official inspection in 5 years of beekeeping - I hope this may assist you in the event of a departmental inspection!

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. Email Arthur on awgarske@gmail.com

An active and working hive waits for no-one!

By: Sandy Harrison

This swarm was collected and donated to the club by a member and now has a new home with new beekeepers.

While it was a happy ending it shows what our working girls will do with space.

This is an 8 x frame box with 6 frames, as that was all that was available at the time of the swarm capture. Caught on a Wednesday, picked up on a Thursday and transported to their new home.

The following Tuesday we opened it to add the 2 additional frames to total 8 and the girls had already added the most perfect wax foundation and had commenced filling it with nectar.

How good are they if you give them any space they just work it! A great learning experience for me as a new swarm organiser.



At left: 8 frame box which was left was 6 frames – looking down you can see the beautifully formed new wax that the workers are producing to ‘fill space’.

At right: Showing another view of the beautifully formed new wax.



Book review – Queen Spotting (Author: Hilary Kearney)

By: Sandy Harrison



HILARY KEARNEY is the creator of Girl Next Door Honey, a beekeeping business that educates hundreds of new beekeepers each year. Her writing appears on her blog, *Beekeeping Like A Girl*, as well as in *Modern Farmer* and *Grit* magazines. Her work has been the subject of features in *Huffington Post*, *Vogue*, and *Mother Earth News*. Kearney rescues swarms and manages 90 hives in her hometown of San Diego, California.

Firstly, thank you to Jamie Thomson for kindly donating this book to the club library.

I was lucky enough in these COVID times to be the one to pick it up from Jamie.

This meant I had the first opportunity to have a read - and read it I did.

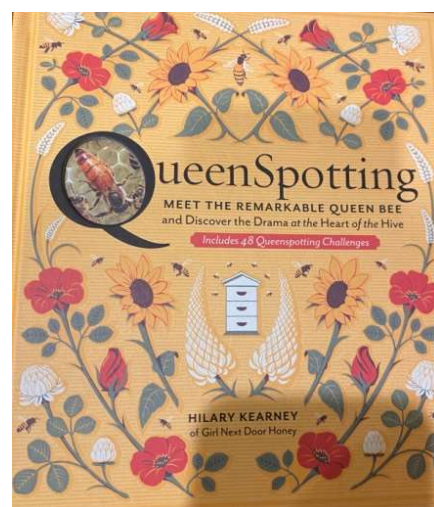
Hilary Kearney the Author was a guest speaker at a recent ABA Conference so some of you may have heard of her.

She is a young enthusiastic, not too hard on the eye, beekeeper. Have I caught the attention of the male members?

While her work is in California the book is about more than Queen Spotting. The story

starts in the colony and the description of the roles is an excellent entry into beekeeping for our new members. The undertaker bee was a new role to me!!

The colony description moves to the life of the Queen Bee and then to how to spot her? Hilary has many stories, rather amazing really that she has had so many experiences and in each one she shows a love of bees and their world.



Throughout the book there are Queen spotting Puzzles - easy to start and harder as you get into the book. This being my fifth season as a beekeeper I have not ever had any luck in spotting my queens. I do however know what to look for to ensure she is there and working away.

Doing the puzzles - did I become better at queen spotting? I would not go as far to say I have improved but I have new techniques to try this season and see if I can find her in one of my hives. Luckily, the answers to each puzzle are in the back - this does at times help

with the frustration.

I would highly recommend this book and as it is not officially in the library, yet I will be managing its distribution and return. Bill, I have it covered. So, if you are interested in borrowing this book, I have already started a borrower's card. Just email me at parramatta.events@beekeepers.asn.au and I will add you to the list and organise its distribution and final return to the library when we can again meet. Happy beekeeping and queen spotting.

Are you swarm ready?

It has been a very 'light on' swarm season for a lot of us – the club included. However – we still need to ensure we are swarm ready. Following is a quick checklist:

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

By: *Gretta and Shalako Francis*

Expanding on the introduction given by Howie Dahdah in the October newsletter. Shalako and I attended the beginners course organised by PAB along with Howie last year. The training was conducted by a veteran bee keeper Arthur Garske and was quite mesmerising due to the years of practical experience and detailed knowledge imparted to us. At the end of the course we felt confident about keeping bees and joining the family of amateur beekeepers.

Both Shalako and I were raised in metropolitan cities and lived in an apartment when we migrated to Sydney. Like most Australians we had the desire to have a little backyard with a veggie patch. We did have potted plants, and dwarf trees in our balcony but it wasn't the same. By God's grace we were able to move to this beautiful suburb with lovely neighbours.

There have been quite a few hit and miss attempts at veggie gardening, and we would always admire our neighbour's gardens. Being new to all of this we did a lot of research and even tried hand pollination to increase our veggie yield and needed to find a better way.

We always enjoyed buying organic honey and honey comb from the farmers' markets. Tasting the difference between commercial honey and the ones picked from the markets by passionate beekeepers, we were always on the lookout for a steady source. When we noticed a honey for sale sign outside a neighbour's house, it really got us excited and set us thinking about keeping our own beehive for the double benefit of honey and veggie pollination.

We took down the number and called with the intention of getting our future honey supplies from the neighbourhood. We were hooked with the very first bottle of honey that Sandy gifted us. Shalako and I had a long conversation with Sandy about us wanting to have our own beehives, and are glad that we did, as she set us up on the right path to owning our own bees. We were invited to the PAB club meeting and there met other passionate bee keepers. Not to mention we relished the honey cakes and enjoyed the Christmas in July party. It was really great to meet and talk about bee keeping while enjoying pizzas around the fire pit.

Soon all our friends and family knew we had a steady source of honey in our street and I became one of Sandy's regular customers. When I travelled to India to visit my parents, instead of buying chocolates and sweets from the store, I decided to take honey to gift my close friends and family. It was greatly appreciated as getting unadulterated organic honey is difficult to near impossible in a metropolitan city like Mumbai.

Sandy kept checking on us and ensured we were ready in time to get our swarms and setup our hives. She came along and scoped the area we were planning to set up our hives in, guided us on what we need to do to have the place ready, and listed out the tools and equipment we were meant to have. Over the winter we ordered our hives, frames and tools from the PAB club, and Shalako painted them in preparation for spring and the arrival of the bee swarms.

Sandy has been a great bee keeping mentor and was very accommodating and showed us her beehives, her setup of how she stored her tools, and precautions she takes. She also organised for us to visit Howie's hives. We really enjoyed getting some hands on bee keeping experience at Howie's place, it was a good refresher before we got our swarms. Wearing our bee suits was also great fun, and it's the closest we'll be to looking and moving like astronauts.



Late one September evening well after dark, Sandy and Shalako picked up the bee swarms that were collected and brought them home. The bees were kept in the swarm collection boxes for about two weeks and were later transferred to the hives boxes that were prepared by us. During this entire process Sandy was always available, handholding and walking us through every step. We are so thankful for her mentorship as we explore on our new adventure and join the club of passionate beekeepers. We look forward to harvesting our own honey and hoping that soon our girls will get involved with beekeeping and start making their own lip balms and candles from bee's wax.

Now I'm just waiting for the COVID restrictions on international travel to lift, and fill my bags with our own honey bottles for all our friends and Family back home in India.



Thank you, Gretta and Shalako - 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.



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

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
11 November	On-line 7.30 pm Parramatta Club Event	November Club Event Presenter: Bruce White Topic: Apiary management over the heat of summer
18 November	6.00 pm Executive Meeting	On-line
9 December	6.00 pm Parramatta Club Event	December Christmas 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

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What's on in 2021 – work in progress!

20 January	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line - TBC
10 February	Monthly Club Event	Details TBC
17 February	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line - TBC
10 March 2021	Monthly Club Event	March 2021 Monthly Club Event Presenter: Professor Andrew Barron – Topic TBA
17 March	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line - TBC
14 April	Monthly Club Event	Details TBC
21 April	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line - TBC
12 May	Monthly Club Event	Details TBC
19 May	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line - TBC
9 June	Monthly Club Event	Details TBC
16 June	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line - TBC
14 July	Monthly Club Event	Details TBC
21 July	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line - TBC
11 August	Monthly Club Event	Details TBC
18 August	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line - TBC
8 September	Monthly Club Event	Details TBC
15 September	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line - TBC
13 October	Monthly Club Event	Details TBC
20 October	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line - TBC
10 November	Monthly Club Event	Details TBC
17 November	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line - TBC
8 December	Monthly Club Event	Details TBC
15 December	6.30 pm Executive Meeting	On-line TBC – over summer management plan for the apiary and 2022 planning