

The official newsletter of the Far North Coast Beekeepers Inc. Est 2020

Website: www.beekeepers.asn.au/far-north-coast

May 2022

Dates and Activities

Next meeting

Sunday 8 May at Merv and Shirley McDonald's,
536 Wardell Road, Dalwood.
8.30 for 9am start

Bring a chair and a plate to share with a cuppa. This is an ideal opportunity to raise any questions or concerns you may have.

Please bring your bee suit or veil (some might be available on the day).

We will be practising lighting a smoker and keeping it going. See how to open a hive and arrange the brood frames for wintering your bees and practise the sugar shake.



Members at the April club day

Presidents Report by Chris Shands

It's been an awful start to the season with the floods and intense and continual rain. Many of our bee club members have been quite severely affected and we offer our full support to help them through this difficult time. The bees haven't fared so well through the rain either. Small hive beetle has been very active, and many hives are struggling.

Thanks to all who attended our April club day at the Robb St Bee Shop and special thanks to Stephen and Janet for allowing us to use the room. Normally we would meet on farm and have some hands-on activities which we will all look forward to next month.

I attended the DPI Honeybee Biosecurity workshop in Grafton recently. They highlighted the need to be vigilant when checking your hives for diseases like American Foul brood disease (AFB) and to be aware of the symptoms and reporting requirements. The endemic Small Hive Beetle is another pest we need to aggressively manage.

Looking forward to catching up with you all at our next meeting

Chris

Making a Bee Slide

Autumn is sugar shake season, and we encourage all our club members to check their bees for Varroa mite using the sugar shake method.

If you have tried getting the bees into the jar, so that you can add the sugar, like most things, it's not as easy as it sounds.

NSW DPI have come up with a great idea to alleviate this problem and it is the bee slide.

The slide is simply a 450mm length of 90mm storm water pipe with an end cap glued on. Once the glue is dry, cut the pipe vertically which will give you two bee slides. To make the deluxe bee slide model you could fix a small cross piece at the cap end to add extra stability. Finally sand the edges so the bees have the best fun.



DPI is requesting that sugar shake results be submitted by 31 May 2022. DPI has provided a video on how to conduct the process including the use of the bee slide. You can access it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCH8H6yXKcU>

New \$2 Bee Coin

The Royal Australian Mint has released a new \$2 collector coin to commemorate 200 years since the introduction of European honey bees to Australia. It features two honey bees and Australian flowers around the edges with a coloured centre of honey comb. More details are available at <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-04-09/royal-australian-mint-release-2-honey-bee-collector-coin/100976424>

Hosting a Field Day

We would love to visit your yard and/or apiary for one of our field days. Please get in touch with the secretary Brad Lane to discuss details and dates.

Contributions to the newsletter

We would welcome any contribution you would like to make to the newsletter.

If you are a new beekeeper you could tell us about your early experiences with bees or if more experienced you could pass on tips and techniques on how to care for your bees.

Relevant photographs are also welcome and we will try to include some in each newsletter.



Photo – Sue Pavaris

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