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Amateur
Beekeepers
Association
NSW

THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS

December 2019/ January 2020

**FESTIVAL
OF BEES**

MAY 30-31

Clear your
diary!

Sutherland
Field Day
Album

**CLEAR HONEY?
BRIGHT IDEAS**

**EARLYBIRD
MEMBERSHIP
DISCOUNT**
Pay now

Using
smokers on
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Ban days

**WHO WILL BE THE
2020 CHAMPIONS?**

**ANNOUNCING NEW
INTERCLUB COMPETITION
PLUS INDIVIDUAL CONTESTS**

December 2019 /January 2020

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Cover: Bruce White at the Sutherland field day, ready to demonstrate how to hive a swarm of bees

*Top right: Native bee expert Tim Heard showing attendees how to split a *Tetragonula carbonaria* hive*

The Amateur Beekeeper is the journal of the Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW Inc. It is distributed to members six times a year, in December, February, April, June, August and October.

The TAB editor will consider adverts from businesses relevant to beekeepers to run free of charge where they contain a discount or special offer to ABA members. Please email editor@beekeepers.asn.au

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Drought, bushfire and beekeeping

Len Verrenkamp on how we can help affected keepers

I KNOW OF OVER 200 hives burnt in a single day recently that belonged to two mid north coast beekeepers. Who knows how many more have been lost during the unprecedented bushfire emergency in NSW and south east Queensland.

The Australian spirit comes to the fore in these tough times. Complete strangers turn up to lend a hand when backs are to the wall, often neglecting their own properties to ensure a neighbour is safe before returning to protect their own.

With now over a million hectares of bush burnt, the smoke haze we've been seeing almost every day reminds us many areas will be active for weeks due to stumps and logs still burning. The bush fire season has only just officially started and, even with no sign of any substantial rain on the horizon, the clean-up where possible must begin.

Possibly the biggest contribution we can make as beekeepers is to offer alternative apiary sites for beekeepers in fire affected areas.

That million plus hectares of bush will not produce any pollen or nectar for around three to five years. With some of the fire fronts stretching many kilometers, even some urban areas will have very limited forage for bees in the immediate years to come – and without rain over the summer, possibly even longer.

The destocking by graziers across eastern Australia is something we see and hear about via the media almost every week. Okay, bees don't eat grass but they're still livestock and need suitable forage to sustain a hive. In many areas, the combination of drought and bushfire has removed pollen and nectar sources for many seasons.



If your club has members in fire-affected areas and your site or sites are okay then think about offering them an apiary site until conditions improve. Maybe you can come to an arrangement where the keeper provides some help with your hives. (Personally, I reckon the lawn mower could be front and centre of that discussion.)

Short term, this will give relocated hives a reasonable chance of survival. Longer term, all hives need a close eye kept on them. As the drought digs its fingers deeper into the landscape, even traditionally productive beekeeping areas will begin to struggle. We're already seeing this via the commercial guys who are predicting a truncated honey crop for this season, and honey packers predicting price increases due to the low supply.

Consider also a thought for all of our native pollinators who likely didn't have the benefit of a responsible beekeeper moving them to a safe place as fire fronts approached. The dry sclerophyll forests of eastern Australia are home to many native pollinators. The drought and bushfires will have a lasting effect on them also.

LEONARD VERRENKAMP, ABA PRESIDENT

president@beekeepers.asn.au

The NSW government has announced various programmes to help fire affected keepers. For details go to beekeepers.asn.au/news/bushfire-assistance

CLUB NEWS

Orange, Far North Coast and Gold Coast

IN LATE NOVEMBER the ABA accepted affiliation applications from three clubs with, in total, well over 500 active members. This brings our network of beekeeping groups to 28. Two of the newly affiliated clubs, [Orange](#) and [Far North Coast](#), have been formed recently by beekeepers wanting a beekeeping group close to where they live. The [Gold Coast](#) club is well established, with a thriving membership base, and recognises the benefits of being part of the ABA network. Welcome to all new members and clubs!

MEMBERSHIP

Earlybird discount



A renewal invitation is in your email inbox. Act quickly to save \$\$

MEMBERSHIP FEES for the ABA have been set at \$30 for anyone joining or renewing after December 1. Pay before the end of 2019, and get the earlybird discount of \$15.

And the news just keeps getting better: the new membership 'year' runs for 18 months (as we are shifting from a calendar year to a 'tax' year.) At \$15, that's less than \$1 a month to belong to Australia's largest network of beekeeping clubs.

Your renewal notice contains up to three components: the ABA fee (which covers the services, grants and insurance the association arranges on behalf of clubs), a club fee set by your local group (which goes direct to the local group, typically to help pay for meetings, apiaries and equipment), and an insurance premium if you have opted to purchase individual public liability cover.

The insurance premium has been held at the current \$20 and covers you for the full 18 months of your 2020/21 membership.

So how does this compare with this year? For the 12 months in 2019, the full ABA membership rate and insurance was \$60 plus any club fees. For the same package now, you pay \$35 in December-- but it lasts 50% longer!

Whichever way you look at it, that's a great deal! To pay go to beekeepers.asn.au/sign-in



**Amateur
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ON THE MOVE?

If you would like to take the opportunity to switch to a different club in 2020, please contact Sheila at web@beekeepers.asn.au BEFORE you pay any of your 2020 fees.

For details of our network of 28 affiliated clubs across NSW and beyond, check out beekeepers.asn.au/find-a-club

The ABA network of clubs now includes [Orange](#), [Far North Coast](#) and [Gold Coast](#).

FEES EXPLAINED

ABA FEE: \$30
(\$15 if paid before 2020)

CLUB FEE: SET BY YOUR LOCAL CLUB

OPTIONAL INSURANCE: \$20

HOW DO MY FEES WORK?

Memberships and insurance purchased now carry through until 30 June, 2021 -- that's 18 months. This is because we are changing our membership year from a calendar year (January to December) to a financial year (July to June) and we don't want to send out renewals again in six months' time.

WHAT'S THE DISCOUNT ALL ABOUT?

If you [pay online](#) before January 1, 2020, you qualify for the discounted ABA rate of \$15.

We offer this discount to reward loyal members and to help us manage the large number of tasks involved in processing memberships for thousands of members. If we can update records, reconcile accounts and post most membership packs in January, it takes some of the strain off already busy volunteers.

CAN I GET THE DISCOUNT IF I AM A TINY BIT LATE?

We sympathise if you forget to pay but do remember: we have a mountain of tasks to get through and the discount is a reward for helping us out. We hate when we have to say "No" to anyone, so please don't leave your payments to the last minute.

CAN I PAY ALL MY FEES AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes, that helps everyone.

IF I TAKE INSURANCE NOW, WHEN AM I COVERED?

Insurance payments made in December cover you from January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

JOIN THE TEAM

The ABA is run by a team elected onto the executive each year at the AGM.

Are you interested in stepping forward to help run the organisation?

We are particularly keen to hear from members with skills in finance, accounting, administration or promotions.

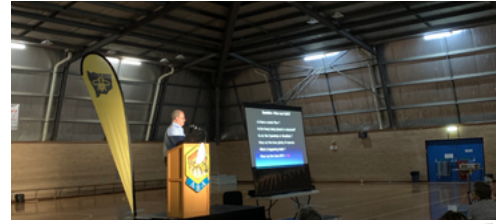
To find out more, or to volunteer to help in any small or larger-scale tasks that crop up from time to time, please drop us a line at feedback@beekeepers.asn.au and we will be happy to chat about the opportunities coming up.

EVENTS

A Field Day to Remember

In early November beekeepers flocked to Sutherland for a day packed with demonstrations, practical talks and trade bargains

MORE THAN 400 members reserved tickets for our November Field Day, taking the opportunity to watch beekeeping demonstrations, hear about a range of topics, ask questions, catch up on the latest news, and grab great buys from our traders. Here are a few snapshots capturing aspects of the day



BIOSECURITY

Recruiting citizen scientists!

We need your club's help with this vital project. Please check how you can get involved

ABA CLUBS across NSW are being invited to participate in an important project to map changing levels of AFB in the environment. Data collected over time will allow biosecurity professionals to build up a picture of when and where bee colonies are at risk, and better target control efforts.

The project is part of NSW's focus to reduce AFB's deadly impact on bee colonies. This is known as the Department of Primary Industries' AFB Minimisation Strategy.

Commercial beekeepers and honey packers are already participating in the mapping project. The ABA has lobbied government to include recreational beekeepers in sampling efforts for a more comprehensive picture of AFB in the environment. We need all clubs to participate to make this project successful.

Here's how your club can participate:

We are asking each club to submit **100 g samples of honey from THREE different apiaries.**

One sample must be from the club's apiary (if it has one). Then two (or three) members per club can volunteer to have their honey included in the project. Volunteers should be prepared to be involved in this project on an ongoing basis.

Clubs have been sent details of how to collect samples and submit them to the ABA's biosecurity officer, Bruce White. Bruce will remove identifying details and code the samples before hand delivering them to the DPI's laboratory for analysis.

The DPI will know only the town or postcode where the apiary is located, the number of colonies the honey sample is extracted from, and the collection date.

Once the lab notifies the ABA of the results of the



AFB analysis, we will send these on to the submitter (beekeeper, or club if from club apiary).

There is no charge for laboratory testing. Clubs or beekeepers need pay only for the postage to send samples to us.

Please support this project. Ask your club secretary or biosecurity officer how you can help.

Have you met your club's Biosecurity Officer?

Did you know that the ABA provides free biosecurity training and information to clubs via your Biosecurity Officer?

If you don't know your Biosecurity Officer, ask your club secretary to introduce you.

If your club doesn't have a Biosecurity Officer, why not volunteer? You don't have to be an expert beekeeper; you just have to be willing to learn and keen to pass that knowledge on to club members.

Want to know more? Check with your club secretary and then contact Bruce White (biosecurity@beekeepers.asn.au) for more information.

EASTER SHOW

Honeyland needs donations

Calling for honey from NSW beekeepers

THE ORGANISING committee of the 2020 Honeyland stand at Sydney's Royal Easter Show is looking for donations up to 1000 kilos of honey across five floral types.

It is also looking for smaller quantities of 20 kilos or more to sell on the stand. If you have honey to donate, please contact committee secretary Tanya Ananin on 0414 501 198 by 31 December.

Honeyland promotes the honey industry to Easter Show visitors and raises funds for the NSW Apiarists' Association. The 2020 Sydney Royal Easter Show runs from 4 April to 14 April.



AMATEUR BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

2020
FESTIVAL OF



BEEES

weekend of

MAY 30 & 31

9 to 4pm

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, HAWKESBURY CAMPUS, RICHMOND

Earlybird tickets on sale soon

BEEKEEPERS.ASN.AU/CONFERENCE





FESTIVAL OF BEES

PLANNING your beekeeping year for 2020? Don't miss the ABA's very special Festival of Bees weekend being organised for May 30 and 31 in Richmond.

TICKETS These will go on sale soon, with 2020 ABA members entitled to special member pricing. Keep a lookout at beekeepers.asn.au/conference and for an email in your inbox.

VENUE We've been looking for somewhere central to as many members as possible, with easy parking, public transport and good facilities. Following positive feedback from last year's conference, and keen to keep ticket costs down, we're holding the event and the dinner in the Hawkesbury area again.

EXPERT TALKS Expect some science, some novel research, some thought-provoking ideas and uniquely entertaining presentations from a host of top-class speakers at this year's event.

ACCOMMODATION The region has a wide range of hotels, motels, dormitory style rooms, home stays, camping sites and more.

BEEKEEPERS' MARKET We're planning a range of stalls to excite beekeepers, families and general visitors. It will include equipment, plants, books, special festival items and some surprises.

ACTIVITIES Get ready for hands-on bee-themed activities, aimed at all ages.

CONTESTS AND DISPLAYS Who'll be best in show? See page 10.

FILM COMPETITION Enter a [short film about bees](#) for your chance at screen glory.

FORAGE Daytime refreshments will again be included in the ticket prices.

GET TOGETHER with old friends, new bee buddies and forge new connections. You never know who else will be there . . . May 30 and 31 – Put the dates in your diary. Members will be first to hear when tickets go on sale.

ADVERTISEMENT

INSURANCE

Mmmm, lip balm?

THE ABA receives enquiries from members who make personal care products with beeswax and/or honey. *"Does the liability insurance offered through the association cover me for cosmetics and skin care?"*

The simple answer: "No, it doesn't." It does not cover products that are intended to be used in personal care, such as soaps, lip balm, skin creams, ointments, shampoo bars and oils.

Insurers consider these items a high risk, and the ABA has not been able to find an insurer prepared to cover small scale producers who have relatively little experience in manufacturing or batch control. Premiums to cover making and selling skincare and cosmetics can easily exceed \$1000 per annum.

The insurance offered as an extra with ABA membership does cover selling recreational beekeeping products such as your honey, homemade candles and beeswax wraps. Details of what is covered are available at beekeepers.asn.au/insurance

Insurance is \$20 for the membership period beginning 1 January 2020 through to 30 June 2021.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR ABA MEMBERS!

10% OFF

Receive 10% off when you buy online at: nuplasapiaristsupplies.com.au

Simply enter the code below at checkout: **ABA20DJ**

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Club Assist

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE:

nuplasapiaristsupplies.com.au/club-assist-program

better
beekeeping.

COLONEL PULLING COMPETITION

Is your club a 2020 trophy winner?

ANNOUNCING THE ABA's 2020 interclub competition. With 28 clubs in our network, the upcoming contest is sure to be an epic battle. (Remember last year how, after hotly contested rounds for Apiary Products, Club Report and Club Initiative, the final-round scores had to be checked and rechecked before a trio of clubs – Parramatta, Illawarra and Central Coast – finished with *exactly* the same totals.)

This year we've made it easy for all clubs to compete for the Colonel Pulling Trophy. And you don't even have to be at the AGM to take part – though nothing quite matches up to a quizzical roomful of beekeepers arguing over bee space or the word for under-supering a Warré hive. Trophies are awarded to the top overall club(s) and to the best developing club. (Clubs qualify in the later category if they have formed in the last two years or have fewer members than 50% of affiliated clubs.)

HERE ARE THIS YEAR'S RULES

We recommend each club selects a Colonel Pulling Team (CPT) with a nominated Team Leader. The CPT is responsible for club entries in each of the four rounds.

Round 1 Liquid Honey

We've simplified the apiary product categories to liquid honey only. Entries will be based on [RAS standards](#) for small producers – very light, light, medium and dark honey. Points will be awarded out of a total of 100 (flavour 25, density 25, colour 25, aroma 10, clearness 10, brightness 5). Clubs should pick two classes and submit two clear 375 ml jars (plastic preferred) for each. Honey is to be mailed to the judges. Details will be sent to clubs in early 2020.

Round 2 Club Report

Competing clubs will be notified of two report topics. The reports are to be no more than 500 words each and submitted online.

Round 3 Club Promotion Pamphlet or Flier

Competing clubs should submit a single or double-sided PDF of a pamphlet or flier suitable for distribution to the general public or a specific group (such as students or gardeners), to inform them about bees, beekeeping or the local club.

The closing date for Rounds 1, 2 and 3 is 5 pm on 15 March, 2020. Further details on how and where to submit entries, plus judging criteria, will be shared with clubs in the new year.

Round 4 Quiz

This will have 20 multiple-choice questions and will be released at a specified time on the day of the AGM, a Sunday in late March or early April 2020, in Bathurst. If the CPT is attending the AGM, the quiz can be completed in the AGM auditorium.

If the CPT is not at the AGM, the answers can be submitted using an emailed link. (In this case, a member of the club executive needs to act as a supervisor and send an email confirming the quiz was completed without any external help (books, phones, online references, 'friends', for instance).

Trophies will be presented at the AGM.

– ABA COLONEL PULLING COMMITTEE



WHO WAS GUY PULLING?

Colonel Guy Pulling is regarded as the founder of the ABA.

A war veteran, he was also an accomplished beekeeper, conducting practical demonstrations at his apiary near his home in Turrumurra. In 1954 he formed the "Amateur Beekeepers' Association of NSW" to support recreational beekeepers.

The first interclub competition, named in his honour, was held at Narara, on the Central Coast.

The early competitions assessed

- *education programmes*
- *beekeeping innovations*
- *organisation*
- *a display of club beekeeping activities.*

Over the years some sections have been removed and others added, including assessments of clubs' apiary products, hives, general activities, images, finance and meeting records, and bee knowledge.

This list wouldn't be complete without mention of the now notorious club honey cake. Only those who attended the Ballina Colonel Pulling/AGM would appreciate the controversy about this event.

With the range and geographical spread of ABA affiliated clubs increasing, the 2020 Colonel Pulling competition has been redesigned to assist every club to take part.



CONTESTS

YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO SHINE

We are thrilled to announce four competitions open to individual ABA members. Enter one, two, three or all! Entry is free. Results will be announced and entries put on display at the [ABA Festival of Bees](#) weekend in Richmond on May 30 and 31



ABA CHAMPION JAR OF HONEY

- Seven classes: four for liquid honey (very light, light, medium, dark), plus creamed, naturally granulated and chunk. Judged using [RAS guidelines](#)
- Two 375ml plastic jars required per entry
Maximum of two entries (must be separate classes) per member
- Start preparing now! Details of when and where to mail honey will be announced in the February/March issue of this publication

CHAMPION HONEY LABEL

The ABA wishes to celebrate excellence in honey presentation

- Entrants will be asked to submit physical label/s used on honey packaging, along with images showing label/s in use on a product
- Labels judged on design, compliance to regulations, execution and copy writing
- Look out for details of how to enter in the February/March issue

BEST BEE SWARM STORY

OPEN NOW!

- Tell us about your exploits rescuing bees. We are looking for good stories and images that showcase interesting examples of bee behaviour and beekeeper community service
- Judging criteria for image: size of swarm, quality of image, situation. Judging criteria for story: technical accuracy, general interest, uniqueness
- Submit one image and story (up to 500 words) to contest@beekeepers.asn.au, marked "Bee Swarm"
- This contest is open now and closes on March 29



BEST DECORATED BEE BOX/HIVE

OPEN NOW!

- This is your chance to show off your creative skills by decorating one, two or a set of bee boxes
- Judging criteria: image quality, originality, artistic merit
- Submit up to three images of your boxes/hive taken from different angles to contest@beekeepers.asn.au marked "Decorated hive". Tell us a bit about the design and how it was created
- Entries close March 29

SURVEY

Australian honey bee health survey

Do you have a spare ten minutes?

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, Plant Health Australia, and AgriFutures Australia are encouraging all Australian beekeepers to fill in a [survey](#). It has been developed to find out how healthy Australian honey bees are, and what pests and diseases might be causing problems for beekeepers.

Go to surveymonkeys.com/r/KJX69VV

The [survey](#) closes on 31 December.



SAFETY

Q: "Can I use a smoker on total fire ban days?"



IN NSW the use of a bee smoker is listed as a standard exemption to Total Fire Bans.

When a Total Fire Ban is declared, the following conditions apply.

11. Bee hive smokers

Fire lit, maintained or used in connection with the management of bees and bee hives, provided that:

- *the fire is lit, maintained and used in a bee hive smoker that is commercially available, made of metal and designed to prevent the escape of fire, and*
- *the fuel for the bee hive smoker is lit inside a building or vehicle by a responsible adult person and the smoker is sealed prior to leaving the building or vehicle and being taken to the hives, and*
- *fire is not permitted to escape from the bee hive smoker, and*
- *the bee hive smoker is under the supervision of a responsible adult person at all times while it is alight, and*
- *the fuel for the bee hive smoker is totally extinguished inside a building or vehicle by the responsible adult person at the completion of use of the smoker.*

In NSW, please refer to the [RFS website](https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans/schedule-of-standard-exemptions-to-total-fire-bans) for more information: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans/schedule-of-standard-exemptions-to-total-fire-bans>

Please note that sometimes a Total Fire Ban order might specify that bee smokers may NOT be used.

The NSW Rural Fire Service can be contacted on 1800 679 737 for clarification on any given day.

*****Beekeepers should always exercise caution when using a smoker. During extreme weather events, for your safety and the safety of others, please consider if there is a better time to open your bees.*****

BOTTLING

Clear and bright, the proven way

Arthur Garske shares his personal tips for presenting honey

WHEN HONEY is first extracted it must be handled carefully. DON'T put it through multiple strainers and a honey straining cloth. Doing all this introduces air bubbles, and air bubbles promote candying. (So do wax particles, 'bees' knees' and whatever else gets in while extracting honey.)

When extracting, I run the honey into a honey pail, put the lid on and, depending on the initial thickness of the honey, leave it for one to two weeks. (Thicker honey needs a longer wait period.) This time allows foreign particles and larger air bubbles to rise to the surface.

Using a cake scraper, I run the scraper around the inside wall of the honey pail. Then, starting from the wall and just catching the top of the honey, I work the scraper around the edge, dragging the honey into the middle. What is being scraped are the air bubbles, wax and 'bees' knees'.

I have a one-to-three kilo sealable honey tub (depending on the amount of honey extracted) ready for the scrapings.

Next, I put a soup ladle into the honey behind the centred scrapings, scrape them into the soup ladle, and when it is full quickly lift it up out of the honey, put the cake scraper under the middle of the ladle and empty the scrapings into the honey tub. I use the scraper to help get all the honey and scrapings into the tub. Then I repeat the process to get any remaining particles into the centre of the pail, load them into the ladle and empty the contents into the tub.

My next step: I top up the small tub until it is nearly full, put the lid on and place it aside for a couple of weeks. When I take the lid off, a lot of the refuse will stick to the lid.

REGULATIONS

Government rego gets a makeover

The NSW Department of Primary Industries is updating its beekeeper registration

A long awaited system promises to let beekeepers register, renew, update records and report disease via one login. The DPI is mailing online access codes to beekeepers who are already registered. If you don't receive your code you can contact Licensing and Accreditation Services on (02) 6552 3000 for assistance.

Meanwhile, the DPI has released a series of videos on social media pointing to the need for all beekeepers to be registered and outlining the responsibilities mandated in the [Australian Honey Bee Industry Code of Practice](#). This and other essential documents are available free on the ABA website beekeepers.asn.au under [Resources for Beekeepers](#). Copies in Greek, Arabic, Italian and Turkish are available at beeaware.org



I repeat the procedure performed with the big container only in miniature. I keep scraping and putting the mixture into a large spoon which I then empty into a straight sided jar. I put the jar's lid on and let it stand for a couple of weeks. Eventually I end up with a solid wax plug which can be placed in a solar wax extractor.

With this method I lose no pure honey. Any collected along the way is poured back into the large honey pail.

My next step is to heat the honey in a jacketed vessel or double saucepan, depending on the quantity of honey to be processed.

I never let it heat above the high 30 degrees so as not to destroy its properties. Then I strain it through a nitrile honey cloth into a new honey pail with a honey gate. I add the lid and wait for a week. Then I repeat the scraping, transferring the honey into a small, straight-sided honey jar and let it stand for a couple of weeks. All the froth, which is fine particles and air bubbles will rise to top. Lastly I repeat to take off any froth that rises on this jar.

Your honey should be CLEAR and BRIGHT and ready to sell or show the finished product.

ADVERTISEMENT

Malaika Honey
Producing high quality equipment since 2006, durable and made of hard-wearing materials.
NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE IN AUSTRALIA:
www.malaikahoney.com 5% ABA DISCOUNT CODE: ABA2019

INVETERATE INVENTOR

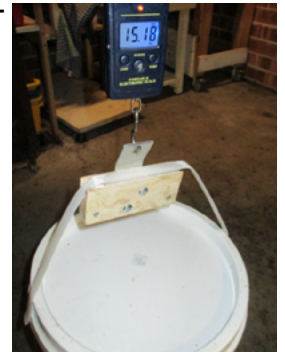
HOW TO WEIGH YOUR HARVEST

Check exactly how much is in that bucket with these nifty ideas from an DIY maestro

IF YOU KNOW the volume of your honey, the calculations are simple. The density of honey is approximately 1.42 kg/litre. So simply multiplying the volume in litres by 1.42 will give you the approximate weight (more correctly mass) in kilos. A 375 ml (0.375 litre) jar should contain $0.375 \times 1.42 = 0.53$ kg of honey.

What to do if the volume of the bucket is unknown, or the bucket is part filled?

Bathroom scales are a usual go-to option. But if you've ever tried it, the problems are obvious. Often the pail obscures the dial or digital window, and unless the pail is centred on the scales, the reading tends to be inaccurate.



The Inveterate Inventor ordered some "fish scales" (pictured top right) via the web – a bargain at less than \$10 posted. The scales have features such as tare, auto-zero, auto-off, backlight and data lock, and are rated to 50 kg with a resolution of 10 gr. (Resolution is the smallest increment a scale detects and displays.)

On the downside: the scales are read from the side so they need a means of support. The Inveterate Inventor fashioned this from a piece of timber laid across a table. To prevent the timber lifting free of the table once the bucket is

hung on one end, the other end of the timber (pictured left) was fitted with a wood block of around the same depth as the table top. A longer metal strip was bolted on to provide an anchor to slide under the table's edge.

Some buckets have a thin plastic strap-like handle which deforms and threatens to fracture over the narrow hook. A "strap" carrying device is employed.

Of course, the weight of the empty bucket must be known to accurately calculate the weight of honey.

A quick look at eBay reveals luggage scales (right) which are read from the top. This feature eliminates the need for a timber support to carry the scales. Hook the scale onto the bucket, lift, read the weight and subtract the weight of the bucket.



MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES

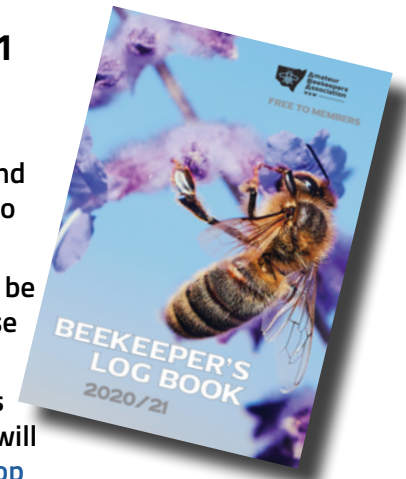
COMING TO YOUR MAILBOX SOON . . .

ABA members who renew in December will receive their 20/21 card and log book by mail early in the new year

ALL ABA MEMBERS renewing for 2020/21 will receive their welcome pack by mail. This will contain a blue plastic membership card showing name and details as supplied to our online membership system. This year we are also mailing a free 2020/21 log book to every member.

Given the feedback on last year's log book, we are confident most members will be happy to receive a printed copy. However if you receive a book that you won't use for whatever reason, please pass it on or return it to your club.

By mailing cards and books direct, members will receive them quicker, and clubs will no longer need to distribute these at meetings. Extra copies of the logbook will be available to buy in the new year via our online shop at beekeepers.asn.au/shop



ABA CONTACTS

2019 EXECUTIVE TEAM



LEN VERRENKAMP

president@beekeepers.asn.au

Len is the president of the Central Coast club, and a partner in a beekeeping business running around 80 hives on the NSW Central Coast.

For Len the ABA is all about "building better beekeepers."



VINCE SCHNYDER

secretary@beekeepers.asn.au

President of Northern Beaches Beekeepers and banker in a risk and compliance role, Vince likes the KISS principle: Keep It Simple Stupid.

His goal: "to simplify and streamline our processes so we have more time for beekeeping."



SUE CARNEY

editor@beekeepers.asn.au

Sue is a publishing professional with a lifelong fascination for bees. She is the founding president of Blue Mountains Beekeepers and keeps bees in Langstroth, Flow and Warré hives.

"Bees know it: cooperation and good communication are key."



DAVE WILSON

education@beekeepers.asn.au

Dave is a former secretary of the ABA and has been on the committee of the Parramatta club since 2007. He has 15 bee hives in northwest Sydney.

Dave's motto: "Working hard has its own rewards."



ARTHUR GARSKE

publicofficer@beekeepers.asn.au

Arthur has 48 years' experience with bees and is a founding member of the Parramatta club. A successful honey exhibitor around the state, Arthur now judges at shows and events. "Detail and plain common sense go a long way in beekeeping."

SHEILA STOKES

web@beekeepers.asn.au

ABA vice president Sheila is also president of Hawkesbury Beekeepers. She is a web development professional who builds, maintains and supports all ABA IT infrastructure. "Lobbying is the way to ensure recreational beekeepers' voices are heard."



LYALL ZWECK

treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au

Lyall is president of Bega Valley Beekeepers and has also been that club's treasurer. During the day, he is the finance manager for a gallery in Alice Springs, and on the weekend cares for a dozen colonies. He sees his role as "making the money make sense."



BRUCE WHITE OAM

biosecurity@beekeepers.asn.au

Bruce retired from NSW DPI as Technical Specialist Apiculture after 41 years' service, 20 years of it managing the Honey Bee Quarantine Station. He's an active member of Illawarra Beekeepers. "We all keep learning. I'm happy to pass my knowledge on."



ANA MARTIN

ana.martin@beekeepers.asn.au

Ana is vice president of Manning Valley club and a member of Hastings Valley. Ana started beekeeping as a hobby in 2015 and has since turned it into a full-time business. "Supporting beekeepers benefits us all, but also it benefits bees."



JOIN US

The executive team is elected each year at the AGM. Are you interested in joining?

We are particularly keen to hear from members with skills in finance, accounting, administration or promotions.

To find out more about what is involved, contact us at feedback@beekeepers.asn.au