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**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW

THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

Newsletter for members



June/July 2017 ISSUE

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The ABA's new award recognising small clubs is named in honour of beekeeping legend Bruce White

BALLINA AGM 2017

Champions, Cake and A New Constitution

The recent AGM in Ballina was an occasion for much celebration. Dozens of members from across the state and representing a wide range of amateur beekeepers elected a new president, voted unanimously to adopt a new constitution and applauded winners of the annual interclub competition

2017 COLONEL PULLING AWARD

It could hardly have been more tightly contested, with five clubs claiming highest marks in individual sections. But it was Northern Rivers, on home turf, that took out the Colonel Pulling trophy with unbeatable performances in the photographic, apiary products and report sections. Mid North Coast aced the quiz round but the extra points were simply not enough to trump Northern Rivers in the final tally. Northern Rivers' club president Robert Stone accepted the award. Northern Rivers last held the award in 2014.



Members of the Northern Rivers club triumphant at Ballina in May



Bruce White presents Manning Valley with their award

The Bruce White Award for Small Clubs recognises groups that have fewer members but strong skills and competitive spirit. Manning Valley were runaway winners after the Colonel Pulling scores were adjusted to factor in the number of financial members in each club. Manning Valley has 30 members. The ABA had sought nominations for the naming of this new award, and was thrilled that Bruce was on hand to present the trophy board that carries his name.

To listen to a fascinating ABC interview with Bruce White talking about his life and career, go to goo.gl/EAz1o3

	MID NORTH COAST	NORTHERN RIVERS	CENTRAL COAST	SYDNEY	PARRA-MATTA	MANNING VALLEY	HAWKES-BURY	HUNTER VALLEY	BEGA VALLEY	ILLAWARRA
PHOTO 20	19	19	19	18	14	16	16			
APIARY 30	26.1	26.8	25.9		25.8	25.2	21.4	26.8		
REPORT 30	25.2	28.8	24		28.8	24.3	19.5	24.6		
QUIZ 20	18	15	10		11	12	11	13	14	13
TOTAL	88.3	89.6	78.9	18	79.6	77.5	67.9	64.4	14	13
MEMBERS	65	93	120	112	113	30	38	152	40	168
ADJUSTED SCORE*	136	96	66	16	70	258	179	43	35	8

*Score divided by club population multiplied by 10. Some other clubs also participated in one or more sections. Their scores are not recorded but this did not affect the final results.



43 ABA CLUB MEMBERS represented 15 clubs at the recent AGM: Manning Valley, Illawarra, Northern Rivers, Hunter Valley, Sydney, Central Coast, Parramatta, Bega, Mid North Coast, Nepean, Southern Highlands, Bathurst, Hawkesbury and Inner West. By any measure, it was one of the best attended AGM and council meetings in the past 10 years.

The executive presented reports and then Jim Wright was appointed Returning Officer to oversee elections of the executive for 2017-18. He recalled the AGM in 2007 where the ABA came close to folding. Back then, a motion was even prepared to dissolve the ABA as no one was willing to serve on the executive. Fortunately, at the eleventh hour, enough members stepped up to lead the association and some of that team remain to this day.

This year 10 positions were up for election.

Dani Lloyd-Prichard (Hunter Valley) was elected President. (See next page for a profile of Dani.) **Lyall Zweck** (Bega Valley) moved from Assistant Treasurer to Treasurer. Both Dani and Lyall are presidents of their respective clubs. **Sheryl McIntosh** moved from Treasurer to Vice President.

The new constitution was approved unanimously and credit goes to Lyall Zweck for his efforts in designing the constitution and ensuring widespread consultation.

Rod Bourke, the state's new Bee Biosecurity Officer spoke about his new role and the way he will be able to help clubs with issues of biosecurity. (See page 6)

Retiring from the executive

The meeting thanked these members for their contribution:

Lamorna Osborne (Illawarra) provided leadership and support over her time as president. She has visited multiple clubs as a guest speaker and to help with governance. She has an outstanding knowledge of medicinal honey and its impact on health.

Robyn Alderton (Parramatta) was the editor of the ABA journal for three years. She incorporated a wide range of articles and web links and can be credited with changing it from a news sheet to a journal. She has been a tireless worker for the ABA.

Elke Haege organised a range of resource materials, including banners, leaflets and cards, for distribution to individual clubs

Liane Colwell (SC) compiled a speakers list and contributed to meetings. And **Adrienne Lyon** (NE) initiated a revision of the press pack for clubs and worked on a new member pack.

President (Office Holder)	ABA direction, projects and media enquiries	Dani Lloyd-Prichard	president@beekeepers.asn.au
Vice President (Office Holder)	ABA field days	Sheryl McIntosh	vicepresident@beekeepers.asn.au
Secretary (Office Holder)	Meetings, membership and insurance enquiries	Dave Wilson	secretary@beekeepers.asn.au
Treasurer (Office Holder)	Finances	Lyall Zweck	treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au
Editor (Committee)	ABA journal ABA promotional material	Sue Carney	editor@beekeepers.asn.au
Biosecurity Officer (Committee)	Biosecurity	Doug Purdie	biosecurity@beekeepers.asn.au
IT Officer (Committee)	Website Membership system	Sheila Stokes	web@beekeepers.asn.au
Education Officer (Committee)	Education	Miskell Hampton	education@beekeepers.asn.au
Branch Development Officer (Committee)	Club support Club grants	Len Verrenkamp	development@beekeepers.asn.au
Public Officer (Committee)	ABA governance Colonel Pulling Comp	Arthur Garske	awgarske@gmail.com

Meet the new President



Dani Lloyd-Prichard

Dani lives in the Hunter Region with her three teenage children and husband (and, yes, they all know how to catch swarms, extract honey and manage beehives). She works as a casual education officer for the NSW Department of Primary Industries based at Tocal College near Paterson. Her role at Tocal is to train and assess students in short courses, online courses and workplace assessments related to the nationally accredited Certificate III in Beekeeping.

Dani develops beekeeping educational resources and recently produced an AgGuide on Australian Native Bees. She has been a recreational beekeeper of both native bees and honey bees for the past eight years, running up to 20 hives at a time.

Dani is the current President of the Hunter Valley ABA. She also works as a part-time bee research officer at The Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment at Newcastle University where she uses bees on a mine site to monitor floral diversity and environmental health.

Dani enjoys the challenge of using all products from the beehive to create infused honeys, honey cakes and tasty meads. Her children are worried she's turning into a bootlegger! (Here's a photo of Dani's kitchen with her latest brew batches.)



The Council meeting that followed the AGM dealt with some quite significant decisions, though it may be remembered more for discussion about the honey-cake guidelines in the Col Pulling Competition than for the new constitution.

Some of the more significant issues included:

1. A combined ABA Conference, AGM, Colonel Pulling competition and trade display will take place on May 20 and 21, 2018 on the Central Coast
2. A cash reserves plan for the ABA was adopted
3. Funding will be provided to clubs to support members completing an on-line biosecurity course
4. New banners with the new logo will be available. Clubs to have the option of a free-standing banner or one designed to be displayed on a wall.
5. Financial support is to be extended to the Hunter Valley club to support speakers for the Tocal field day.
6. Additional guidelines were approved for the honey cake component of the Col Pulling competition.

THE ABA THANKS ALL OUR COL PULLING JUDGES.

Photography: Henry Kalaf

Apiary Products: Geoff Manning

Cake: Margaret Stonier

Reports: Wendy Wilson

And a special thanks to Eddie Sijnstra for compiling and presenting the 2017 Quiz. (To test yourself, see page 8)



A RANGE OF NEWLY DESIGNED CLUB RESOURCES IS NOW AVAILABLE. See website for details

Colonel Pulling CAKE WINNER MODERN LATVIAN HONEY CAKE

Top scores went to Hunter Valley's entry, baked by Heather Wightman. Heather's recipe had been chosen by members at the club's Christmas gathering – proof of some serious preparations for the inter-club contest

Latvian Honey Cake

Heather explains: "The recipe was passed on to me by a friend whose parents were from Latvia, after she made the cake using some of my honey. She was given the recipe by a Latvian woman visiting Australia. I believe it was adapted from a family recipe."

3 eggs – lightly beaten

2 cups of plain flour

2 level teaspoons of baking soda

1 cup of honey

Pinch of salt

Filling

900ml sour cream

½ cup sugar

Oven

220 degrees

Baking paper (cut into 8 equal sized rectangles – approx 260mm x 170mm)

- Sift flour, salt and baking soda into a bowl
- Add honey and the eggs and stir until mixed thoroughly
- Place 1 or 2 of the baking paper rectangles on a biscuit tray
- Spread a thin layer of the mixture onto the baking paper
- Bake for three minutes. (The top should turn a golden brown)
- Put the cooked rectangles aside and make 7 or 8 in total
- Whip the sour cream and sugar together
- Trim rectangles to neaten edges (retain pieces to decorate cake).
- Assemble the cake with filling between each cake layer and over the outside of the final cake
- Decorate with cake crumbs or leave plain
- Refrigerate for 12 hours

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ABA MEMBERS

WHO COLLECTED AWARDS AT

THE NATIONAL HONEY SHOW IN APRIL.

With so many winners this year, and for fear of missing out on congratulating some of those who entered under business names, we are simply saying WELL DONE TO ALL!

For a full list of results: rasnsw.com.au/sydney-royal-competitions/competitions/national-honey/results/



AS CLEAR AS . . . HONEY

In the last issue of **The Amateur Beekeeper** we noted that honey entered in major contests should be in standard 375 ml jars.

That's right. But it's easy to get confused between volumes and weights, and several members queried the correct measure.

A litre of water weighs one kilo but honey is denser than water. So 375ml of runny honey will weigh around 500 grams. A similar volume of creamed honey weighs less.

Jars are sold by the volume they hold, not the weight. (The Editor learned this lesson the hard way after ordering a box of much-too-large honey jars online. Pickled onions anyone?)

MEET ROD BOURKE, NSW's NEW BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER



ROD BOURKE has been appointed the new NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer and will be based at the Department of Primary Industries' Tocal College at Paterson. He comes from a commercial beekeeping family and has been interacting with bees in one way or another all his life. Rod currently maintains 20 bee hives with his wife and family. For the past 20 years he has been working in Queensland or the Pacific Islands.

The Bee Biosecurity Officer position is funded by a compulsory levy in place for honey sales by commercial beekeepers, so his position is predominantly working with commercial beekeepers, but Rod will also help amateur beekeepers understand and comply with the National Bee Biosecurity Code of Practice (The Code) and the new Biosecurity Act. Rod will work with biosecurity, research, education and enforcement personnel in NSW, with Bee Biosecurity Officers in other states and with Plant Health Australia.

Rod can be contacted directly at rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au

A NOTE TO ABA MEMBERS FROM ROD:

"I feel very strongly that it is extremely important that beekeepers REGULARLY inspect the brood nest of EVERY hive that they own... including the crazy/strong/agro hives they may have! It is extremely important that beekeepers are – or learn to become – comfortable to fully work their bees and be aware of the goings on within their hives (instead of being afraid to delve below the queen excluder) and to be capable of recognising or detecting problems that hives may be experiencing (including early onset of AFB).

Unfortunately, the ideology that the bees should be left undisturbed and "kept naturally" is actually very irresponsible and could severely impact upon the hives of other hard-working beekeepers if AFB or other brood diseases/pathogens are left undetected. It is every beekeeper's responsibility to get right into the brood nest on a regular basis to see what is going on.

As an added incentive, you will probably get more honey, stronger hives and less swarming/queen-less hives as a by-product of doing this extra management, plus you will become more proficient at working your hives and may even want to run more of them!

The more you put into your bees, the more you will get out of them. So please don't neglect them by keeping away from their brood nest. Go and inspect them as soon as it is seasonally appropriate to do so.

There are lots of quality beekeeping courses available that can also assist with increasing your personal knowledge on bees. So, if you are serious about your bees, then think seriously about learning a bit more about what they need to achieve their maximum potential."

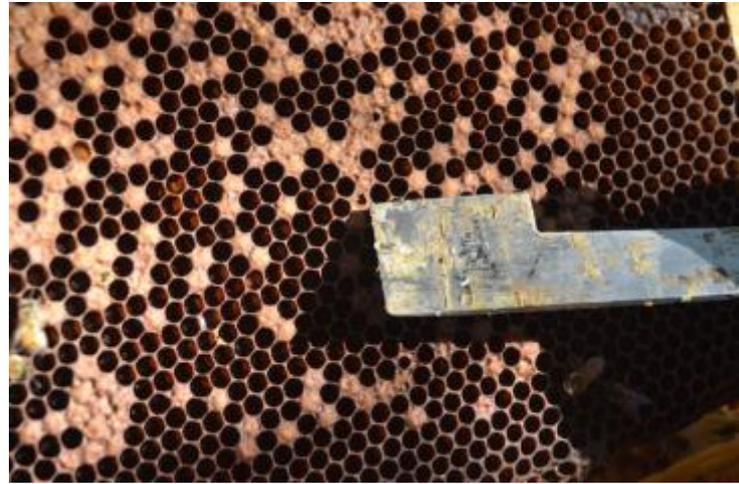
Biosecurity: American Foul Brood Checks

Doug Purdie, the ABA's Biosecurity Officer writes:

As the season comes to a close and final harvesting is being done to your hives in preparation for winter, it's a good opportunity to perform your quarterly brood check for American Foulbrood (AFB).

Numbers suggest that as many as 20% of hives in NSW could be carrying the infection so you will most probably find AFB during your time as a beekeeper. Just one cell with AFB can infect an entire hive and in a matter of months the hive will collapse. So it's important to be very detailed when checking your hives and check each and every brood frame for a suspect cell. Any cell that appears sunken, greasy or discoloured should be treated as suspect.

In order to see all the cells, you need to shake most of the bees off each frame. Be careful to shake the bees into the brood box in case the queen is amongst them. If you see a suspect cell, the "rope test" will



identify if it's AFB with remarkable accuracy.

To perform a rope test, push a matchstick or small, similar twig into the cell, stir and slowly retrieve it. If the contents rope out in a sticky mucus-like way then you most likely have found AFB. (Discard the stick into the inspected hive or your smoker so you do not unwittingly spread the disease to other hives).



To be certain, a slide can be prepared and sent for identification to the DPI. An over-the-counter instant test kit is also available. Your club biosecurity officer will be able to assist with identification and dealing with the infected hive which must be destroyed following strict DPI guidelines.



ACT QUICKLY
Within 24 hours of detecting the presence (or suspected presence) of AFB, notify the emergency animal disease watch hotline on **1800 675 888**



MANAGING AFB: FREE BOOKLET

Download a 36-page booklet on managing AFB written by DPI technical specialist Doug Somerville. This booklet was part-funded by the ABA in 2012.

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/558434/managing-afb.pdf

Quiz: Test your Bee-Q

Pick the correct answer in Eddie Sijnstra's test of beekeeping knowledge. Can you beat the best score recorded at the recent ABA AGM in Ballina? The bar is set at 18 out of 20. Good luck. Answers on page 10.



Boy Scout Beekeeping Merit Badge (US)
from the early 1950s

1. **The diet of honeybees under normal circumstances consists of**
 - a) Honey
 - b) Nectar
 - c) Pollen
 - d) All of the above
 - e) None of the above
2. **What is bee space?**
 - a) The space between the bottom board and the frames directly above it
 - b) The space above the frames under a migratory lid
 - c) The height of the risers on the bottom board
 - d) None of the above
 - e) All of the above
3. **Why do we use queen excluders?**
 - a) The beekeeper is too lazy to look for the queen
 - b) To curtail the number of bees in the colony
 - c) To maximize honey production
 - d) None of the above
 - e) All of the above
4. **Which race is best known for its docility?**
 - a) Ligurian
 - b) Caucasian
 - c) Carniolan
5. **How do we track a bee?**
 - a) We fit the bee with an antenna and use radio direction finding
 - b) We tie a small down feather to one of its legs and follow the bee thus marked
 - c) We take a compass bearing from the feeder station as she flies back home
 - d) All of the above
6. **What is the correct height of an "ideal" frame?**
 - a) 5-1/3 inches = 13.5 cm
 - b) 9-1/4 inches = 23.5 cm
 - c) 4-1/2 inches = 11.5 cm
7. **When does a colony evict its drones?**
 - a) When the nectar flow slows down
 - b) When the pollen stores are diminishing too much
 - c) When there is no fresh pollen supply
8. **When does a colony rear more drones?**
 - a) When there is an old queen
 - b) When there is a young queen
9. **What is a Swathmore swarm box?**
 - a) A box that holds more than ten frames
 - b) A box with reduced ventilation
 - c) A box used to start queen cells before grafting
 - d) A box used to start queen cells after grafting
10. **I have a colony with a queen marked with a blue dot. What year is she from?**
 - a) 2014
 - b) 2015
 - c) 2016
 - d) 2017

11. My hive has a big cluster of bees hanging from the front entrance (bearding), doing nothing. What can be the cause?

- a) There is no nectar flow to work on
- b) The bees are preparing to swarm
- c) There is not enough room inside the hive for all the bees to fit in.
- d) It is a very hot day
- e) There is no nearby water source to quench their thirst

12. My hive has some little black beetles amongst the bees. How do I check if this is a problem?

- a) Check for any beetles in the lid.
- b) Check on the bottom board.
- c) Inspect all frames one by one.
- d) Take off the top super and sit it on an inverted lid. Do my regular inspection. Then replace the super and then check the number of beetles in the lid

13. How long does the average queen live in Europe?

- a) Up to 2 years
- b) Up to 3 years
- c) Up to 4 years
- d) Up to 5 years

14. How long does the average queen live in Australia?

- a) Up to 2 years
- b) Up to 3 years
- c) Up to 4 years
- d) Up to 5 years

15. When opening a hive, in which order should you use the following tools: 1

1 Australian hive tool, 2 American hive tool, 3 Smoker, 4 Bee brush, 5 Bucket with water

- a) 2, 1, 3, 5, 4
- b) 5, 4, 1, 2, 3
- c) 3, 2, 1, 4, 5
- d) 2, 3, 4, 5, 1

16. I have just installed my new 1.4 kg package bees. After how many days should I have my first inspection to see that all is well?

- a) 3 days
- b) 6 days
- c) 21 days

17. I notice a lot of small black ants running up and down my hive. What is the best thing to do?

- a) Spray the hive with Mortein
- b) Spray the hive with a lasting surface spray (Baygon)
- c) Put the legs of the hive inside tins containing water
- d) Use axle grease on the legs of the hive stand

18. I need to move my 4-decker hive 50 kilometres away. How do I best do this?

- a) Split the hive into two double-deckers. Move them and re-assemble quickly.
- b) Reduce the hive to a two decker and move this to the new location then refit supers as needed.
- c) Seal all supers individually. Move these and then reassemble

19. I caught a swarm and put it in a hive fitted with foundation. How can I best avoid it absconding?

- a) Give the swarm a frame of open brood from another colony
- b) Lock the bees in for 24 hours
- c) Feed them with thin sugar syrup
- d) Give them a frame of sealed honey, scratching some of the surface

20. I discover an outbreak of chalkbrood in one of my colonies. What can I do to help my bees?

- a) Reduce volume of the brood chamber for overwintering
- b) Enlarge colony entrance to aid ventilation

amateur. n. From the Latin *amare*, to love, and the Italian *amatore*, lover. "The professional works for an income, but the amateur is sustained by passion."

- c) Replace old comb
- d) Requeen affected colony

- e) None of the above
- f) All of the above

QUIZ ANSWERS

1d, 2d, 3d, 4c, 5d, 6a, 7c, 8a, 9d, 10b, 11d, 12d, 13d, 14b, 15c, 16a, 17d, 18b, 19a 20f

Advice from DPI: How to Submit Samples for Testing



The State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory collects samples to test for problems such as AFB, EFB or chalkbrood.

The Laboratory has requested beekeepers take a few moments to understand the collection and submission guidelines so that any samples sent in can be processed efficiently. This will help minimise potential delays in getting results.

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/services/laboratory-services/veterinary>

Here you will find information on collecting, packaging and shipping samples and a form that must be completed to ensure the lab has all relevant information regarding your sample. A series of four short online help videos explain the whole process. <https://goo.gl/8ffaE6>

HIVE HINTS: DEALING WITH CRANKY BEES

Sometimes one hive in an apiary will be more aggressive than the others. Here are some remedies, from Frank Karabaic, to try to make them calmer

Remedy 1.

(I've never tried this myself but the person who told me about it swore it works.)

At night, put several stakes in the ground about a metre in front of the hive. On the stakes hang some of your smelly clothing. Smelly pants, sweaty shirts, dirty socks will do. Other family members may contribute. A dark woolly jumper is ideal. Remember that honeybees originate from Europe and they instinctively dislike dark, furry bears.

Next morning the bees will be agitated and stinging the clothes. Eventually they will become accustomed to the odours and realise that no harm is coming to them or their hive. They should then accept you more readily when you approach the hive and you will receive less stings.

Remedy 2.

Kill the queen in the aggressive hive and unite with a strong, calm colony by placing a sheet of newspaper over the super of the good hive and putting the cranky supers on top. By the time the supers' bees have penetrated the paper the pheromone of the good queen will have permeated the whole hive and they will be successfully united.

Remedy 3. Requeen with a gentle strain of bees. Buy from a reputable breeder. Many advertisements can be found in bee journals. Don't put up with cranky bees. LOVE THOSE BEES.

NOTES FROM THE RAS SHOW

An ABA member who was a volunteer at Honeyland explains what it's all about

Dallys Napiorkowski writes:

This year I had the great pleasure of volunteering for the first time at Honeyland, the NSW Apiarists' Association stall at the Royal Easter Show. Duties were overseeing the tasting of five different honeys (macadamia, mallee, citrus, iron bark and brush box), selling honey and other honey products, keeping stock on the shelves and talking to customers.

I was selling bee products I didn't know existed, like honey nectar aerated drink, honey corn (think Lollygobble Bliss Bombs), creamed honey with ginger, honey with chocolate, jars of pollen (high in protein, great on cereal or in drinks, and very popular with gym enthusiasts), medical-grade honey swabs, soaps and furniture wax.

I worked alongside apiarists with hundreds of hives but never felt put down because I have a mere three. In fact, I learnt a lot from conversations with volunteers as well as customers. For example, one customer told me coastal honey has a higher moisture content than inland honey. I checked with boss Bruce White, and the customer was right. Honey was very popular with Chinese tourists, but sometimes I had to chase down another Mandarin/English speaker to interpret the customers' requests. Some spent hundreds of dollars on honey, Manuka included.

Honeyland has glass cabinets to one side which magnificently display all the honey products submitted for judging. There is every conceivable honey colour on display, also creamed honey, frames of uncapped honey, honey mead, wax blocks and moulded wax. Even the wax had many shades and was beautifully pure.

There was also a live bee display with an apiarist hopping into a large enclosure several times a day and showing the public inside a hive. The bees are rotated every two days with hives that are kept on the roof of the Woolworths Dome.



I think the well-publicised plight of the honey bee and the importing of honey substitutes encouraged passers-by to stop and have a chat, try some honey and buy pure Australian honey.

There was so much

goodwill towards bees and honey that it was very enjoyable interacting with customers. Honeyland is a first-rate exhibit and stall.



"My brush with honey royalty" The author with Honeyland coordinator Bruce White



Moving Sale

We are moving and will be opening at our new location on Friday 9th June. Our new address is:
Unit 21/ 19 McCauley Street, Matraville 2036.

We will be holding a relocation sale on 10th June with discounts on all our shop stock along with a run-out sale of all the things we found when packing up for the move.

ABA members can have access to the sale online one day early using the discount code Bigsale01 at the checkout.

Save time – order online for in-store pick-up or we can deliver for a flat \$10 to Sydney metro.

Winter Hours Open Fri 10 – 5, Sat 10 – 4

Unit 21 / 19 McCauley Street Matraville 2036
Phone 02 9232 5600

shop.theurbanbeehive.com.au

INFANT BOTULISM – A fatality related to honey

Here's what you need to know about this rare but dangerous medical condition that affects babies – and how honey has been implicated in a recent deadly case

From the April 18 issue of The Japan AgriNews:
“Officials of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government revealed on April 7 that a six-month-old boy in Adachi ward, Tokyo, died due to infant botulism after his family fed him honey. The government of Japan, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the honey industry are renewing their warning that honey should not be given to babies under one year.”

The boy had apparently consumed juice mixed with honey as baby food for about a month from mid-January. Doctors estimate he ate around 10 grams of honey a day.



Infant botulism is an intestinal form of botulism which results when spores of the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum* are swallowed. Unlike the form of botulism which is usually associated with food poisoning in adults and is contracted from food containing the toxin, these spores colonize the baby's large intestine and only then produce botulinum toxin. The toxin causes weakness and loss of muscle tone because it blocks the nerve endings' ability to signal linked muscles to contract.

Children under 12 months are most at risk of intestinal botulism. Older children and adults usually have natural defences in the gut. After extensive testing, researchers believe most infant botulism patients acquired their infection by swallowing microscopic dust particles that carried the spores.

Bees do not make *Clostridium botulinum* but the honey they produce may contain the dust-borne spores. For their part, beekeepers can reduce the risks by handling honey and honey frames to avoid contact with dust or soil. For instance, they should not place honey frames on the ground when removing them from a hive.

Of course, infants can pick up botulism spores from various sources in the environment. While some of these exposures may be difficult to avoid, honey is easily withheld from a baby's diet.

The two important messages for beekeepers are:

- Do not allow honey or hive components come in direct contact with soil or dust.
- Under no circumstances offer honey to a child less than one year of age.

Article by Dave Wilson, based on information supplied by Bruce White

INFANT BOTULISM IN AUSTRALIA

On average, one case of infant botulism is diagnosed in Australia each year.

Although babies can get very ill with it, it is treatable in hospital. In fact, overseas statistics show fewer than one case in 80 is fatal. A new antitoxin developed in the US can halve the time the toxin is active in the body.

Scientists are still studying why babies in some areas seem more susceptible than others – Mildura, for instance, has seen a cluster of four cases within 12 years – but atmospheric conditions, particularly dust storms, are implicated.

Federal and state health departments recommend against feeding honey to babies under 12 months. -SC

The Inveterate Inventor Powers Up the Extractor

The Inveterate Inventor has followed a path familiar to many beekeepers. The excitement of the first bee colony followed by more colonies each season. The numbers of colonies grew as did the honey harvest but that first extractor stayed the same. It remains a fine, robust, manual extractor with the emphasis firmly on the “manual” part.

DECAPPING FRAMES, then spinning the extractor, then back to decapping, then back to spinning, was beginning to lose its earlier charm.

At the time, electric extractors were quite expensive and so the junk box was raided and Google was applied. The final transformation is detailed in the image (right).

The motor is a DC 24-volt motor that was intended for an electric scooter or golf buggy.

Oatley Electronics (www.oatleyelectronics.com) is a veritable treasure trove of brand new (but surplus) motors and speed controllers. Suitable DC solid state motor controls are also available on eBay very cheaply.

In this extractor conversion, the handle was simply replaced by a wooden pulley with an aluminium centre hub or boss. A smaller pulley was obtained for the motor and a belt obtained from the local bearing/belt supplier. The motor was mounted on slots cut in a stainless-steel sheet. This allows the motor to be adjusted to achieve a suitable belt tension. The stainless-steel plate was fixed to the top bar of the extractor and the conversion was complete.

While the motor is rated at 24 volts DC, it is used with a 12-volt supply and handles the task of spinning the three-frame extractor with ease. A solid-state speed controller is used and the motor can be adjusted to turn the extractor at any rotation speed from slow to fast but with plenty of torque.

It has been operating for years with no issues. The 12-volt motor also allows the extractor to be used in the field using a car battery.

If you are contemplating buying an electric motor powered extractor be wary of the cheaper ones supplied by some new beekeeping suppliers. Some of these extractors are very flimsy with very light gauge stainless used in the barrel. Often the baskets that hold the frames have minimal wires to retain the frame. Comb “blow outs” when extracting seem inevitable. The stainless steel is often finished with very sharp edges and the quality of the wiring often leaves a lot to be desired.

Build or buy – a powered extractor eases the load come extraction time.



BEE HELP! Experienced beekeepers needed

The ABA is establishing a helpdesk on the ABA website to answer bee-related questions from members and the public, particularly in areas not covered by a local ABA club. Are you interested in joining the panel of ABA accredited experts who can offer advice by email or telephone? For further details, contact Sheila Stokes web@beekeepers.asn.au



Saving the Bees: It Starts Now!

CONGRATULATIONS to Liam O'Connell a Year 7 student at Oxley College and the youngest member of Southern Highlands Beekeepers. Liam asked his parents for a Flow Hive for Christmas and then penned this passionate essay for the school magazine.



BIG ISSUE:
Are we killing our food supply?
The Downfall of Bees

We know them as the stinging insects that buzz around our garden going from flower to flower. Although they do get a bad rap sometimes, humanity would not survive without them. You are probably thinking "That's not possible", as scary as that may sound, it's true. You see those little annoying insects are part of ecosystems and agriculture worldwide. Bees are intrinsic to the supply of around a third of our food.

What can you do to help? Well, you could choose to plant bee friendly flowers in your garden. Some plants that you could include in your garden are lavender and eucalypts. These are only two examples of a wide range of plants. This helps bees get access to the food they need and by planting a variety of plants you can help them have food all year round. Stop using chemicals on your garden. While they may seem like an easy thing to do they have long-term implications on the environment and bees. Buy local honey. It supports local beekeepers who support local bees! Finally, you could become a beekeeper. That may seem daunting to a lot of you, but I am a beekeeper myself. With some research and the support of the local bee keeper association it is a great hobby. Remember those little bees you see in the garden are out there helping us, so we should help them.

Next ABA Council Meeting: August 6

MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE. The meeting will be at Nowra and will be hosted by the Shoalhaven Beekeepers Association. The venue will be announced in time for the next issue of The Amateur Beekeeper. You can also keep a look out under the coming events section of our website.

The meeting will commence at 9.30 am with an ABA Executive Committee Forum where members will have the opportunity to ask questions of the executive. This will be great opportunity to meet the new ABA president and treasurer. The regular council meeting will follow that forum. Issues on the agenda include: program for 2018 ABA conference; possible changes to ABA insurance; standards for amateur extraction and honey packing facilities; promoting generic email addresses for club executive; support for smaller clubs

This meeting is open to all ABA members. The ABA constitution ensures that members have the opportunity to attend four council meetings each year and to consider the decisions recommended or made by the ABA executive committee.

A lunch will be available. The following ABA council meeting is scheduled for late October when the ABA expects to set the insurance and membership rates for 2018.

ONLINE RECORD KEEPING

Under the Biosecurity Code of Practice, all beekeepers must maintain records of biosecurity-related actions and observations. The ABA is committed to helping amateur beekeepers comply with the code and is evaluating the HiveKeepers app, which is tailored to Australian conditions.

Each club has been offered a free subscription for their club apiary. HiveKeepers is also offering all individual members of the ABA a free 30-day trial and then 30% off the annual fee (which works out at around \$33).

Support your club or the ABA!

HiveKeepers will pay a \$5 commission to either the ABA or your club for each beekeeper who subscribes. You may choose which organisation receives the commission: either use the code ABANSW or ask your club for its unique code



HiveKeepers

Do it for your bees!

The HiveKeepers app is designed to quickly and effortlessly record information about your apiary and hive inspections

Perfect for the backyard beekeeper with 25 hives or less

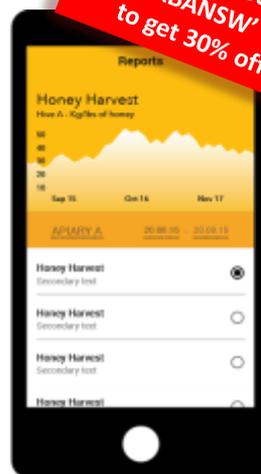
Use the code 'ABANSW' to get 30% off



Google maps integrated



Track frames over time with photo time shift



Detailed inspections at four levels

Free 30 day trial



www.hivekeepers.com

FEEDING YOUR BEES

Eddie Sijnstra shares valuable information if you need to provide your bees with supplementary food when natural sources are lacking

Sugar Solutions for Feeding Bees

Spring feeding: 1 part sugar to 1 part water

Autumn feeding: 2 parts sugar to 1 part water

Winter feeding. candy board

Soybean flour, or soy flour, is used by beekeepers as a substitute for pollen, or as a pollen extender.

There are two forms of soy flour:

Defatted soy flour has had the soy oil removed by solvent extraction. It still contains approximately 2% oil, **Expeller press or cold press soy flour** comes from beans that have been pressed to extract the oil. It contains 6% to 8% soy oil. Bees prefer expeller or cold press soy flour.

Pollen Substitute Recipe One

Use when bees are on a heavy honey flow with low-grade ground-flora pollen (yellow box with scotch thistle or flat weed, grey ironbark and flatweed or fire weed and sunflower crops)

3 kg soy flour

1 kg torula or brewer's yeast

500g pollard (pollard is a by-product of the flour milling of grain)

100g vegetable oil (such as cottonseed or sunflower)

50g vitamin mix (use general multivitamins only)

3.5 kg irradiated honey or malt

Feed for four to five weeks before and during the honey flow. Feed as a biscuit or patty in the hive as close to the brood nest as possible. Place patties under a queen excluder, if you must use one.

Pollen Substitute Recipe Two

Use this protein supplement for heavy honey flows which have low grade pollen (white box, Pilliga box, white mahogany/grey ironbark honey flows) or when continuous breeding is required

4.2 kg expeller press soy flour

500g pollard

200g vegetable oil (cottonseed)

50g vitamin mix

3.5 kg irradiated honey or malt

Feed regularly with a minimum of 300grams protein supplement every two weeks

Candy Board Recipe

The formula for this fondant candy is supplied by Dr Roger Hoopingarner

7 kg white sugar

1.5 kg white corn syrup

4 cups water

½ tsp. cream of tartar

(Divide measurements for smaller quantities)

- Dissolve the sugar in water and stir while heating the mixture to 110 degrees C
- Let the syrup cool to about 80 degrees C then beat until thickened and pour into the pie forms to harden
- Once the candy is hardened, the blocks can be put onto the colonies

How to mix patties.

- Preheat irradiated honey or malt to 50°C
- Slowly add the dry ingredients and oil. Mix thoroughly
- If still dry, add a little extra irradiated honey until just slightly sticky
- Form into flat 10 mm thick biscuits of 100-200 gram before the mixture cools
- Allow to set on a flat surface

Pack the biscuits between greaseproof paper, or dust with soy flour, store in dry boxes

Store the biscuits in a deep freezer, not a fridge freezer!

They keep for three months

Feed inside the hive as a biscuit or patty. Feed 4-5 weeks before, during and (if pollen has stopped) after the flow.

Gleaned from Honeybee Australis and others



7 more tips from Eddie about soy flour and bees

- Soy flour is acceptable as a protein feed, but excessive feeding of soy flour by itself is detrimental to bees
- Soy flour is soymeal which has been ground into flour. To avoid gut problems for your bees it must be fine enough to pass through a 200-micron sieve
- Soy flour contains 47% to 50% crude protein and the amino-acid profile is acceptable for bee metabolism. The amino-acid isoleucine is well represented and will give extra supplementation to bees feeding on it
- The high concentration of protein in soy flour can cause protein toxicity in bees. Pollen substitute patties should therefore contain less than 30% crude protein
- From field observations by Kleinschmidt (1986) bees fed non-pollen protein like soy flour for short periods should not have serious problems
- Feeding soy flour for periods longer than six weeks is not good for bees. This is due to the lack of vitamins, minerals, and enzymes in the soy flour, as well as the high levels of protein found in it
- When feeding bees that are working deficient pollen honey flows, like mugga or Caley's ironbark, use soy flour as a pollen extender and not by itself

CLASSIC ABA LOGO SPOONS AND BADGES

There's still time to order your commemorative enamel lapel badge or stylish teaspoon celebrating the 'classic' ABA logo. Check the SHOP section of the ABA website – beekeepers.asn.au/shop – for details



Hornsby
Beekeeping Supplies
For all your beekeeping needs

ABA members qualify for a 5% discount.

Show your membership card when shopping at our branches.

Or email an image of your 2017 membership card

to: aba@hornsby-beekeeping.com

We will advise when your request has been processed.

HORNSBY BRANCH

63-A Hunter Lane, Hornsby, NSW 2077
Tel: (02) 9477 5569, Fax: (02) 9477 7494

Trading hours

Mon – Fri 9am 'til 5pm, Sat 9am 'til 4pm

MT. DRUITT BRANCH

Unit 11, 71 Kurrajong Ave, Mt. Druitt, NSW 2770
Tel: (02) 9625 5424, Fax: (02) 9625 7589

Trading hours

Mon – Fri 10am 'til 6pm, Sat 10am 'til 5pm

You can also shop online at

www.hornsby-beekeeping.com

Club grants

During the past 12 months, beekeeping clubs have been putting their \$900 grants from the ABA to good use for the benefit of local members.

Clubs have voted to use the funds in various ways, including purchases of Warré hives and presses, club apiary supplies, manual and electric extraction gear, beekeeping suits, audio equipment such as microphones and headsets to boost participation at meetings, and group transport to a regional field day.

ABA Club contacts

Note: to join a club, go to beekeepers.asn.au and click APPLY TO JOIN.

Applications are forwarded to individual clubs for approval

Club	Contact	Email address
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Mary Keys</i>	secretary@bathurstbeekeepers.org.au
<i>Bega Valley</i>	<i>Suellen O'Brien</i>	begavalley.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au
<i>Central Coast</i>	<i>Max Rae</i>	secretary@centralcoastbees.org
<i>Goulburn District</i>	<i>Lee Towle</i>	secretary@goulburnbeekeepers.asn.au
<i>Hawkesbury</i>	<i>Sheila Stokes</i>	hawkesbury.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au
<i>Hunter Valley</i>	<i>Linda Winn</i>	pclawinn@bigpond.net.au
<i>Illawarra</i>	<i>Geoff Henning</i>	lincres@ozemail.com.au
<i>Inner West</i>	<i>Mel Barrs</i>	melbarrs@hotmail.com
<i>Macarthur</i>	<i>Anna Grocholsky</i>	secretary@macbeekeepers.asn.au
<i>Manning Valley</i>	<i>Vicki Grace</i>	covenanttreasures@msn.com
<i>Mid North Coast</i>	<i>Peter Dickson Smith</i>	pdsbml@bigpond.com
<i>Mudgee</i>	<i>Claudia Wythes</i>	claudia.wythes@watershedlandcare.com.au
<i>Nepean</i>	<i>Sheila Stokes</i>	secretary@nepeanbeekeepers.com
<i>Northern Beaches</i>	<i>Paul Hoskinson</i>	northernbeaches.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au
<i>Northern Rivers</i>	<i>Sally McMahon</i>	sallyandkids13@gmail.com
<i>Parramatta</i>	<i>Robyn Alderton</i>	parramattabeekeepers@hotmail.com
<i>Shoalhaven</i>	<i>Tim Haddad</i>	shoalhavenbeekeepers@gmail.com
<i>Southern Highlands</i>	<i>Jim Stonier</i>	jwstonier@bigpond.com
<i>Sydney Central</i>	<i>Lisa Blythe</i>	secretary@sydneybeeclub.org.au
<i>Yass and District</i>	<i>Linda Swadling</i>	yass@beekeepers.asn.au