



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW MID NORTH COAST

The Bee Line

**Newsletter of the Mid North Coast Amateur
Beekeeping Association**

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April 2022 Newsletter

MNCABA President's Report

A beautiful, early Autumn day, after weeks of on/off again rain, saw a good roll up at the Connells' Bonville Property. It was nice to welcome members and some potential members.

In addition, Wayne Fuller and Janine Rudder came to enlighten us about the B-Trace Programme.

Many of us have heard about 'B-Qual'. Its aim is to ensure that honey produced in Australia is quality assured for both domestic and export markets. B-Trace is a division of B-Qual and is aimed at the smaller beekeeper (less than 100 hives). By using the B-Trace management app, beekeepers would be complying to the industry standards. (More about this elsewhere in this newsletter).

The club has been invited to be part of a bee display at the Coffs Show from Friday 13 to Sunday 15 May. If you are able to assist on any of the days or nights, or would like more information, please contact Judith Webster on 0447 308 906. We will be sharing the space with the native bee group. Also, remember that there is a Honey Section.

Bunnings Coffs have asked if the Club would like to have a display on 20th May (World Bee Day). Please contact Monica or Merridy if you would like to assist. Also, the Bellingen show is on immediately afterwards, 21st and 22nd May. It would be great if some members could assist with a display or enter products to be judged. Contact Merridy.

Another thing: The Bee Congress is coming up. It will be over 3 days in June. It is in Sydney and as it is quite expensive, the Club will favourably consider financial assistance for a member or two to attend and report back to the Club. Contact Merridy or Monica for more information.

Matt Connell had some of his hives at home, so was able to demonstrate inspections of a couple of hives and a sugar shake.

After lunch which is still BYO, there was plenty of discussion and question/answers.

Don Wood has our Apithors and Foundation Wax supplies. He is also the chap to see if you need to borrow extracting equipment.

Regards,

Allan

Next Meeting

Date: Sunday 8 May 2022

Time: 10 for 10.30am

Hosts: Andrea & Clive

Address: 278 Barnetts Road

Gumma

Contacts: Andrea 0407 816 281

Allan 0428 712 587



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Photos of the April Club meeting. Our presenters from B-Trace, Wayne and Janine. Club members inspecting Matt's hives and observing a sugar shake demonstration.





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Further information about B-Trace can be found here:

<https://www.btrace.com.au>

More information about conducting a sugar shake can be found here:

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/pests-diseases/sugar-shake-month>

TENDERS INVITED

Photos below are of a wax melter and honey press that have been donated to the club. They have been put up for tender for Club members and interested members are asked to submit their tenders to Monica or Merridy before the next Club meeting.



CLUB SUPPLIES

Foundation and Apithor

Don Wood has our Club's supplies of Wax Foundation and Apithor SHB traps. Please contact him on pH: 0418 112 516 or by email: rabbitrap2873@yahoo.com

The price of foundation is \$2.60 per sheet. Apithor small hive beetle traps are \$6.50.

Don is also the guardian of our two hive extractors that are available for loan to club members.



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FRANK'S HIVE HINTS No 15

WINTER PREPARATION //

Hives on the North Coast usually survive very well over winter but need some preparation. Weather and food sources can be unpredictable. There are a few points to consider.

1. Check brood combs for signs of disease. Learn to recognise AFB and EFB. If unsure, ask for help.
2. Unite a weak, but healthy colony with a strong one. Kill the queen in the weak hive and place the frames, in a super, on top of the strong one with a sheet of newspaper between.
3. Keep colonies compact in single or double boxes depending on population. Combs should be covered in bees.
4. Leave stores for bees. At least 3-4 combs of honey on the coast, more inland.
5. Remove surplus honey combs and extract them. Given back to bees, in a super, they will be licked clean in 24 hours then can be removed.
6. Remove supers of empty combs.
7. Store combs over winter:
 - a) Stack supers together in a dry place outdoors. Make airtight and use a fumigant registered for the purpose of killing wax moths.

OR

- b) Refrigerate combs for 24 hours then store in a moth proof container.

LOVE THOSE BEES!

From the archive of Frank's Hive Hints by the late Frank Karabaic



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NEXT MEETING

Date Sunday 8 May

Time 10 for 10.30am

Hosts Andrea & Clive

Location 278 Barnetts Road
Gumma

Directions Travelling from north of Macksville:
Take Macksville exit & head for Macksville.
Cross bridge over the Nambucca River when entering the town.
Take first left at end of bridge on to Gumma Rd.
Follow Gumma Rd along the southern side of the river.
Turn first left at Figtree Rd.
Turn right into Barnetts Rd, which turns from paved to a good gravel road - follow for exactly 2.7km.
Our gate comes up on right - number 278 on fence, along with a surfboard.
The Club's bee meeting signage will also be prominent.
Take left fork of driveway to the shed.
Parking instructions will be given on the day (weather dependent)

Cost \$5

Raffle Donations for the door prize table warmly welcomed.

BYO Chair, food, drinks, hat, bee protection gear, any **outstanding library books**

Contacts Andrea 0407 816 281
Allan 0428 712 587

What type of blood do bees have?

Bee positive!