



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

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

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Editor Jenna Vos

Bang for your Buck

As a New Beekeeper you must wonder why you have to **register** with the **NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI)** and pay a bi-annual fee (\$60.00 as of the 1/03/2021).

What are you getting for your money? Bottom line, the fee goes towards the administration and maintenance of the **register** of all beekeepers in New South Wales plus you can request a free copy of the **Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice** booklet. In 2020/2021 the **ABA**, of which the club is an affiliated member, supplied all its 4,500 members with the **Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers Version 1.1 January 2016** to the cost of **\$15,000**, with a partial grant of \$2000 from the **National Bee Biosecurity Program Contingency Fund**. It is the **honey levy** imposed on any beekeeper who produces more **1,500kg** of honey that goes towards funding the **Bee Biosecurity Officers (BBO)** who predominantly assist commercial beekeepers. A **BBO** is allocated to every state and territory in Australia to educate and implement the **Code of Practice** and relevant legislation. The **NSW DPI** also employs a recreational **BBO** (Mark Page) who can be reached at [<mark.page@dpi.nsw.gov.au>](mailto:mark.page@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or 0409 299 415 for any queries.

However there are several other bodies that have a vested interest in you maintaining healthy and pest free bee hives be it one or 50. Even more so if your apiary exceeds 50 hives with the increased risk of disease it poses.continued page 3.

Covid-19 Regulations and Restrictions

Please practice physical distancing when attending any gathering and abide by the most recent advice given by Australian Government Health www.health.gov.au

Date Savers

Tuesday 16th March 2021 18h00: Committee meeting: RSL Casino, Casino NSW 2470;

Monday 19th April 2021 Lismore Workers Club, 231 Keen St, Lismore NSW 2480

19h00 – 19h30: General meeting: Topics for discussion

19h30 – 21h00: Information Evening: Presentation of various Hive types; their pro's and cons eg. Langstroth: Full Depth vs WSP vs Ideals etc

Sunday 9th May 2021 8h30 for 9h00 start - 12h00 Field Day to be hosted by Peter Laughton, #11610 Clarence Way, Tabulam NSW 2469

Focus: Various methods of Wintering your bees. Only two hives will be used for demonstration purposes.

What to bring: A veil and protective gear for viewing the apiary - all other bee gear will be provided, your own chair and cup and something to share – two gazebos, two tables and an urn will be provided with tea, coffee milk and sugar. A Portaloo will also be onsite.

Saturday 12th June 2021 8h30 for 9h00 start - 12h00 Field Day #40 Travans Road, Lismore NSW 2480

Focus: A hive inspection will be undertaken. A demonstration of anything to do with wax will be held eg. cleaning wax cappings, wax polish, wax moulding, wax wraps etc.

What to bring: same as above for Field Day activities.

Presidents Report by Peter Laughton

A good turnout at the field day just outside of Nimbin on Suzy Diaritz property. With Merv's expert assistance, several hives were opened and inspected. A number of hives were split. A basic beekeeping activity that was watched with interest by those present. The bees were certainly active and got a bit toey. Some certainly didn't like the disturbance to their beautiful sunny day of foraging.

Out here, all is well, if not very wet. I haven't been able to check any boxes, apart from a quick drive around on the quad to check whether there are still bees in boxes !

Our next meeting will be in the new format of a General Meeting prior to an Information Evening at the usual Lismore Workers Club venue in Lismore. Our next field day in May will be here at Tabulam on my property demonstrating the wintering of hives. If enough interest is shown, a demonstration of embedding wax will also be given.

Thanks to all those people who step up to the plate who allow access to their properties and the use of their bees hives for the education of others.

Peter

Far North Coast Club news

From our Secretary, Stephen Fowler

Thank you, Suzy, for being our hostess this month. Hope your bees appreciate the beautiful view they have down the valley each morning.

*We demonstrated the use of the **sugar shake** method to detect **Varroa Mites**. No mites or AFB were detected as we simultaneously checked for both. Two hives proved to be strong enough to make a split, making up two new Nucs with plenty of supplies to see them through winter.*

At our next meeting in April, we will be comparing hive types and looking at different ways of overcoming the problem of lifting those heavy honey boxes. So if any of you have a novel way of overcoming this come along and share your wisdom.

Stephen



Far North Coast Beekeepers Inc Committee

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Committee Members	<i>To be nominated (3)</i>		

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According to **The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC)**, “In 2017-18 honey and beeswax production was valued at \$126million. Around 30,000 registered beekeepers operate nearly 669,000 hives of which 1,868 operate 50 hives or more commercially”. Live bee exports and beeswax are highly valued as they show no miticide residues as this moment in time. (No infestation of Varroa mites logged to date in Australia – two incidents of **Varroa jacobsoni on Asian bees (Apis cerana)** were apprehended near the Port of Townsville, QLD in 2016 and 2019 respectively and contained). In 2014-15, pollination services were estimated to have a value of \$8.35 to \$19.97 billion dollars.

From these figures you can gather the importance of maintaining Biosecurity in our region for exotic and existing pests and disease. The **AHBIC** work in partnership with industries and government to protect the health of our bees. The **National Bee Pest Surveillance Program** operates at all our sea and airports (33) as an early detection system for exotic and/or pest bees. These are known as **sentinel hives** which are visually inspected every six weeks plus samples are taken of adult bees to diagnose internal mites and viruses in the labs. **Swarm and nest capture** is also monitored in and nearby ports. **Catchboxes** are positioned in high risk port areas and monitored with the aid of surveillance camera's and sensors. **Floral sweep netting** in these high risk areas is also undertaken to screen for pest bees eg. red dwarf bee (*Apis florea*), giant honey bee (*A.dorsata*), Asian bees (*A.cerana*) and bumble bees (*Bombus terrestris*). The **National Bee Biosecurity Program** is there to help and educate beekeepers to manage the health of their hives by learning how to identify exotic and existing pest and diseases with the aid of the **Code of Practice** and the **Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers Version 1.1 Jan 2016**.

This **Code of Practice** was drawn up by **AHBIC** under the auspices of **Plant Health Australia** and all states and territories in 2016, thus increasing preparedness and surveillance for exotic pest threats. Over three million dollars in funding has been provided by industry and government partnerships for the duration of 2016-2021.

Exotic bee pests and exotic bees to be aware of as a beekeeper

Varroa mites	<i>V.destructor</i> <i>V.jacobsoni</i>	Asian honey bee	<i>A.cerana</i>
Tropilaelaps mites	<i>T. clareae</i> <i>T. mercedesae</i>	Giant honey bee	<i>A. dorsata</i>
Tracheal mites	<i>Acarapis woodi</i>	Red dwarf honey bee	<i>A.florea</i>
Large African Hive beetle	<i>Oplostoma fuliginea</i>	Bumble bee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>
Asian hornets	<i>Vespa velutina</i> <i>ssp. nigrithorax</i>	Africanised Honey bees & Cape Honey bees	<i>A.m.scutellata</i> <i>A.m.capensis</i>

Footnote:

All information has been sourced from “Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers” Version 1.1 Jan 2016, Be Aware www.beaware.org.au, NSW Dept of Primary Industries <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au> “AG Guide Healthy Bees” handbook, Plant Health Australia <https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au>, The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council <https://www.honeybee.org.au>

Notes from the Editor:

If there is any subject matter you would like to see in the newsletter please contact us on email. I would love some feedback regarding form and subject matter

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 Stephen Fowler to discuss details and dates.

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