



Sticky Fingers

Far North Coast Beekeepers Inc.

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

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Editor Jenna Vos

Preparing for Spring and that first Nectar flow.

If you are one of those organised people who have got all their winter bee jobs out of the way and are ready to tackle your beehive spring preparations this might interest you. This is a summary of an article written by Graham Kleinschmidt, a professional beekeeper in the mid 1980's. "Preparing for the Flow". It needs to be noted that this article is out of context; no location is provided or actual date when the article was written. Please adjust your actual location, time of year when nectar flows occur in your area, age of your queen and subspecies of the hive *Apis mellifera ssp eg. ligustica*. According to some studies (see Larry Connor's article in the The American Bee Journal) different subspecies of bees either explode their numbers or are more conservative in the face of a nectar flow and the time of year.

Graham Kleinschmidt maintains a hive needs approximately 45,000 bees to promote **high honey** production. This population size needs to be achieved at least two weeks before a big nectar flow. In addition the brood box should have at least 40,000 capped brood cells (6-7 standard Langstroth frames fully capped) or 9-11 frames partially capped) allowing for two lifespans to bring in the nectar and pollen during the first month of the nectar flow. "A colony requires a minimum of three completed brood cycles and a fourth well developed before heavy honey production commences". The queen needs to lay approximately "1,000 eggs/day by mid August." A younger fertile queen is preferred for this to be achieved and can be introduced to the hive in the previous Autumn. ...p3

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 and Activities

Sunday 15th August 2021: 8h30 for 9h00 start - 12h00 Field Day; 5 Robb Street, Russelton Industrial Estate, Alstonville NSW 2477

FOCUS: There will be a demonstration of how to split a hive plus "hands on" demonstrations on how to assemble hive boxes, frames and embedding of foundation. Please bring a mask to wear indoors or outdoors subject to weather conditions.

Tuesday 17th August 2021 18h00: Committee meeting: RSL Casino, Casino NSW 2470.

Sunday TBA November 2021 8h30 for 9h00 start - 12h00 AGM has been postponed until November 2021 at 5 Robb Street, Russelton Industrial Estate, Alstonville NSW 2477. All office bearing positions to be declared vacant. Please nominate an office bearer of your choice.

This will also be our depending on Covid Restrictions at the time.

Another Reminder to renew your ABA and FNC Club membership as of 1st July 2021 – 30th June 2022.. Please check all your contact details and that your default club is of your choice to receive your member pack from ABA.

Presidents Report by Peter Laughton

After discussions with the ABA, the AGM has been postponed until the November Christmas party, so have a think about how you can support your local club.

We packed several pallets of boxes and accessories to be sent to Steritech in July. Thanks to Stephen for organising it, hope your phone turns up !!

A message to those new beekeepers or those considering the hobby, you must be registered with the DPI, even for **one** hive. The fines and penalties are quite severe for not registering and labelling your hive boxes. The registration fee varies according to number of hives you own/farm. The DPI web site will keep you updated on the latest fee. <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees>.

The ABC TV Landline did a short piece about the importation of a strain of queen bees specifically bred to be resistant to Veroa Mite. A discussion on ABC News Radio was also broadcast. It is available on ABC Iview and can be cast to your TV screen (need a casting device) OR it can be viewed on your tablet/smartphone if you have downloaded the ABC Iview App.

Peter

Far North Coast Club news

From our Secretary, Stephen Fowler

We would like to thank Robert and Tanya for the use of their Apiary for the last field day. The weather was perfect especially after the previous rainy days. Robert had thought that the bees might be a bit fiesty because of the weather however we had no problems with the hives we inspected. So a good, happy and instructive day was had by all. Its been a busy week with the committee meeting on the Tuesday night followed by the packing up of the hive boxes(160) on four pallets in preparation for their radiation trip to Steritech.



August/September is approaching rapidly so its time to get back to those Bees. The spring nectar flow will stimulate the queen to up her game and start laying at an increased rate. It is nearly time to make those hive inspections to check for brood, disease and general health of your bee hives. Have they survived the winter intact or do they need assistance with additional feeding and manipulation of brood space? Have you prepared your Supers so you can under super and have exchangeable hive boxes on hand to replace old brood boxes? This is also the time to swap out those old brood frames with new frames and clean the bottom boards to help maintain the health of your hive and encourage the queen to maximise the additional laying space.

Stephen

Far North Coast Beekeepers Inc Committee

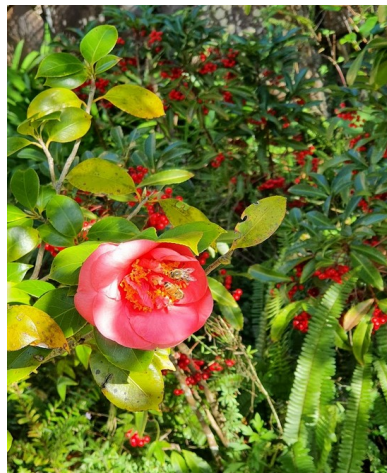
President	Peter Laughton	+61 491 609 416	farnorthcoast.president@beekeepers.asn.au
Vice President	<i>To be nominated</i>		
Secretary	Stephen Fowler	+61 418 412 621	farnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au
Treasurer	Robert Stone	+61 432 277 317	farnorthcoast.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au
Editor	Jenna Vos	+61 419 693 183	farnorthcoast.editor@beekeepers.asn.au
Biosecurity Officer	Robert Stone		farnorthcoast.biosecurity@beekeepers.asn.au
Membership	Robert Butler	+61 414 667 036	farnorthcoast.membership@beekeepers.asn.au
Committee Members	<i>To be nominated (3)</i>		

Cont. from p.1

Normal increased nectar flow early in spring will stimulate the queen to increase her rate of egg laying. According to Larry Connor of "The American Bee Journal", a way to estimate the rate of egg laying can be done by measuring the capped brood. One inch (2.54cm) equals five cells. Therefore one square inch equals 25 cells/capped brood. Multiply the (length x breadth) by 25 and then divide the measurement by 12 (12 days for pupa to hatch) the result will give you the rate of egg laying by the queen ie. number eggs laid per day. This obviously can be converted into metric measurements.

Graham Kleinschmidt discusses the pros and cons of early brood stimulation in late winter. In the event of using sugar syrup supplementation (1 sugar:1.5-2 water) to stimulate the rate of egg laying he advises the need to have an ample store and/or supply of pollen to raise strong viable workers. The lifespan of a generation of workers can be reduced by 10-14 days if there is an inadequate supply of pollen. He says the same can be said of poor pollen and also protein supplements (1980's) as a poor substitute for good diverse pollens. Early brood stimulation during late winter can also promote nosema disease, so care needs to be taken especially when packing down the hive in autumn.

Graham also depicts the physical approach to hive manipulation during each season; in **autumn** he closes down the hive with a brood box, queen excluder and a super filled with honey frames, in **late winter** the super is empty and the brood box holds some honey & pollen filled frames towards the outside of the brood frames in the centre, **early spring** sees him swapping out empty frames into the 2nd and 9th position with honey and pollen on the outside frames and the brood in the centre, **spring** sees him swapping out two frames of brood from the brood box (depending on the laying rate) into the super (centred) above and replacing them with two empty stickies. Four frames of capped honey needs to remain in the super with the remaining frames as stickies. In **late spring** as the numbers grow and there are visible drone cells it is time to move the first super upwards and under super with an additional box. At the same time it is important to replace two frames in the brood box with two frames of foundation in position 3 and 7 of a ten frame box. Strong hives must be undersupervised when the super above the excluder is a third full. Continue under supering early until the flow begins to slow down. Stickies in the supers are preferable whilst there is a flow on so the workers are storing nectar and not building comb from foundation. "Knowing when to call it a day and turning off the hive by hunkering down the supers" is an important aspect of building populations".



Footnote:

All information has been sourced from "Preparing for the Flow" by Graham Kleinschmidt (1980's); "The American Bee Journal, Dec 1, 2015 author Larry Connor; "The Australian Beekeeping Manual" by Robert Owen, 2015, Exisle Publishing, NSW Australia;

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.

Disclaimer – the views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the FNC Beekeepers Inc. FNC Beekeepers Inc. accepts no liability for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided.