



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

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

June 2022

Dates and Activities

Far North Coast Bee Club Workshop

When: **Saturday 18th June 2022**

Time: **9am to 1.00pm**

Where: Clovass-McKees Hill Soldiers Memorial Hall Casino Rd, McKees Hill, (16km from Lismore, on the Casino Rd, the big hall on the left)

We plan to have a practical day which will include:

- lighting the smoker and keeping it going,
- making a sugar shake bee slide,
- hive and frame assembly,
- hive bases and lids
- types of materials, pine, treated timber, insulated boxes, plastic boxes and frames
- wax melting
- making a registered number template

Please bring a plate to share with morning tea, the club will supply tea and coffee.

Presidents Report by Chris Shands

Not being able to run last months on farm demonstration was disappointing, but we didn't want to bog a duck after 25ml of rain on the Saturday night, so with a bit of luck in the spring we will be able to catch up on this activity.

As a beekeeper, you must be registered with the DPI and have your registration number displayed on your hives. Even if you only have one hive, you must still be registered. This in part is for bio-security reasons. There are also other legal requirements so to find out more, check out the DPI web site at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees>

Another point to consider is to keep a bee diary of activities you perform on your hives. This helps with future planning and hive management.

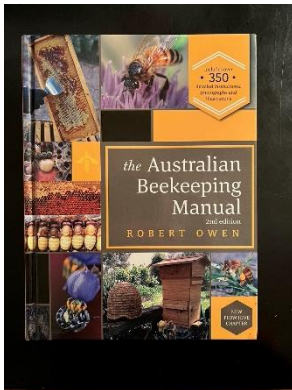
See you soon....

Chris

Resources for beekeepers - Sue Pavasaris

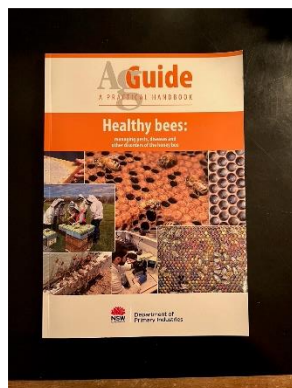
If, like me, you're new to beekeeping and want to find out as much as you can, you're in luck. There is a plethora of books published about beekeeping, as well as lots of online tutorials and useful websites.

With a good search engine, it's easy to find what you need on the internet but nothing beats being able to flick through a book and see things you didn't even think of. This article is about four books in my beekeeping library that I find useful for different reasons.



The Australian Beekeeping Manual, 2nd edition by Robert Owen (Published November 2020); 368 pages

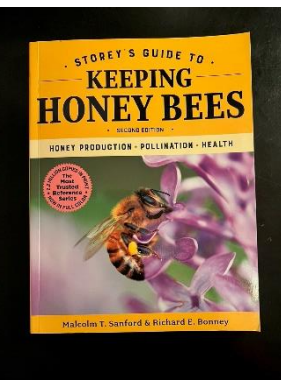
This is a wonderful book that covers everything from getting your first bees to managing them through the seasons and dealing with diseases. This second edition even includes a chapter on the Flow Hive. There's interesting information about the life cycle of the honey bee and how to construct a bee-friendly garden. The text is supplemented by colour photographs and diagrams and there's a glossary, index and list of resources at the back. I tend to use it to look up specific things – like how to deal with Small Hive Beetles.



Ag Guide, Healthy Bees: managing pests, diseases and other disorders of the honey bee, by NSW Department of Primary Industries, (Published 2021), 85 pages

Speaking of pests and diseases, this book is all about how to keep honey bees healthy. Published by the NSW Department of Primary Industries it's a bit like a text book in layout, but the information is clear and supplemented by photographs. Health is also about nutrition and ways to prevent diseases so I particularly liked 'the pollen story' in appendix 2. I had no idea there was so much to pollen!

NSW DPI also publish a book called *Honey and pollen flora* so I might invest in that at some stage to continue my pollen education.

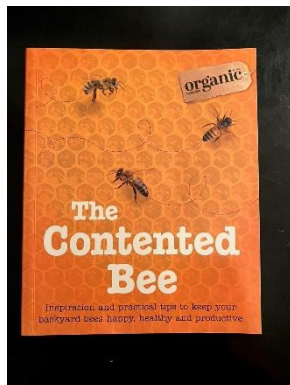


Storey's Guide to Keeping Honey Bees, 2nd edition, by Malcolm T Sanford & Richard E Bonney (Published September 2018 in the USA); 288 pages

I also have the Storey's guide to keeping poultry, which I've used extensively over the last 40 years of keeping chickens. The Storey's guides are great but are published in America so some of the information is different for Australia – for example I don't think the black bears mentioned in the pests chapter are going to be a problem here. I found Storey's bee guide useful as a supplementary source of information. It covers a lot of the same subject areas as *The Australian Beekeeping Manual*

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and is a very well-designed book with clear subheadings, diagrams and photographs. There are also nice little 'beekeepers' stories' to bring a personalised tone to the information.



The Contented Bee, ABC Books, (Published August 2018), 304 pages

This book is all about beekeepers' stories, although Part 1 covers some basics. Chapter 7, 'Using your harvest' contains some mouth-watering recipes but this is mainly a 'feel good' book to inspire would-be beekeepers. I bought this a long time ago when I was thinking about taking the beekeeping plunge. There are lots of good ideas in these stories and boundless enthusiasm for beekeeping.

FYI

The continuing wet weather is being very hard on our colonies and not being able to check the condition of the hives is very frustrating. If you are going to check your hives, it is best to pick a sunny and warm period during the day. Opening a brood box can stress the bees as the brood is maintained at around 36 degrees C. It takes a lot of energy to regain these temperatures on cooler days. The bees are pretty grumpy during cooler periods.

Small Hive beetle is still active so when you do check your hive make sure you top up your hive beetle traps.

Queensland Beekeepers Association Open Day

The QBA industry day is being held on the 25th June at Warwick Qld. It is the conference field-day being held at Condamine Apiaries. If you are interested in trade displays and a range of interesting bee technology and would like to go, the North Coast Bee club are organising a bus, so pleased contact Brian Window on 0466709736 or Chris Shands on 0431344194

Queensland Beekeepers' Association Inc.

OPEN DAY

Saturday 25th June 2022

Warwick QLD
Location: Condamine Apiaries, Wheatvale via Warwick

Entry gates open 8.30am

Beekeeping Trade suppliers are onsite for the day, offering demonstrations and product sales.

Expert Panels and Specialist Presentations are offered throughout the day.

Food & Drinks available for purchase at the event.

Check out our Facebook page for more information:
<https://www.facebook.com/qldbeekeepersassociation>

For trade exhibit information contact Paul Reid via email: skyscreamer17@gmail.com

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 Brad Lane to discuss details and dates.

Contributions to the newsletter

We would welcome any contribution you would like to make to the newsletter.

If you are a new beekeeper you could tell us about your early experiences with bees or if more experienced you could pass on tips and techniques on how to care for your bees. If you have any good recipes using honey we would be happy to include them.

Relevant photographs are also welcome and we will try to include some in each newsletter.



Sue Pavasaris

Far North Coast Beekeepers Inc Committee

President	Chris Shands	0431 344 194	farnorthcoast.president@beekeepers.asn.au
Vice President and	Hans Neumann	0410 532 956	hans@popcake.com
Treasurer			
Secretary	Brad Lane	0403 086 881	farnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au
Training	Stephen Fowler	0418 412 621	fowlerstephen@y7mail.com
Biosecurity Officer	Robert Stone	0432 277 317	red.stonee68@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Robert Butler	0414 667 036	aquaticcustoms@hotmail.com
First Aid Officer	Tanya Rumpf	0487 598 105	tanyar438@gmail.com
Newsletter	Ian Lacey	0410 684 150	farnorthcoast.newsletter@beekeepers.asn.au

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