



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW MID NORTH COAST

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Mid North Coast Amateur Beekeeping Association

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January 2019 Newsletter

President's Report

Welcome to 2019. I trust that everyone has recovered from the Festive Season and the extraordinary heat.

There was no meeting of the MNCABA this month, however those members of your executive who were able, met to do some planning, to ensure that our meetings for 2019 get off to a good start.

Those of you who have done business with the Bunyip Beekeeper will be sorry to hear of the Business's demise.

Current ABA members will receive their "Log Book" at the February meeting. These are for recording hive inspections/activities. If you have chosen to have yours sent directly from the ABA to your address, you will not collect one at the meeting. Mal will be in charge of distribution and ticking off. This is part of the new Biosecurity Regulations and is not terribly different from recordings done by other farming enterprises.

A few members have not renewed their ABA membership. We suggest that you pay the extra few dollars and take out the "Public and Products Liability" insurance on offer as well. If you are not sure about how to go about it, talk to Mal.

A new book will be added to our library (if we haven't got it). It is called "The Contented Bee", ABC Organic Gardener.

We always welcome ideas/suggestions to keep our meetings interesting and informative. If you have a particular skill or activity that you would like to share, please put your hand up.

Some activities which have been done in the past, other than hive inspections, are wax melting/cleaning, frame making, wax wraps. These can be repeated and added to if you like. Discussion topics or "this is how I do it" ideas are also welcome.

As I always say, listen to what others do/say and then make up your own mind about whether you follow suit or not.

Please continue to be aware and inclusive of "newbies" at our meetings. It can be quite daunting for new people to walk into a group of 40 plus people at meetings.

Next Meeting

Date: 10th February

Time: 10 am for 10:30 start

Address: "Anabriar"

2601 Orara Way

Kremnosgh NSW 2460

President:

Secretary

Treasurer/Membership Officer:

Vice Presidents:

Public Officer:

Ass. Secretary/Publicity Officer:

Librarian:

Allan Thomas Ph: 0428 712 587, email: beekeepingworkshops@gmail.com

Merridy Huxley, email: midnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au

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Don Wood, Merridy Huxley

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Newsletter Editor:

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Technical Advisor:

Ass. Librarian:

Mal Banks

Glen Locke

Dasha Miller

Elsbeth Haenggi



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Also, please continue to assist where possible setting up, packing up, washing your dishes etc. This spreads the work load "many hands make light work".

Discussion Topic: What do you do, if anything, to keep on top of hive beetle? Tell us and/or show us, at the next meeting.

Regards

**Allan
President**

Hot Weather

We're not the only ones suffering in this hot dry weather. I feel for the bees. After a dry November, we had 350 mls in the middle of December, then not a drop for 31 days. Most days here in January have been over 32, topping at 38. But it could get worse. I hope the weather changes before we get temperatures over the 40's. 45+ temps can be catastrophic for the hives.

- ◇ Ensure the bees have access to adequate water
- ◇ Provide shade
- ◇ If you suspect overheating observe the bees and brood. Overheated larvae are found hanging out of the top of their cells and are brown to black in colour with a watery consistency: pupae have black greasy appearance; newly emerged adult bees may be wingless; cappings on brood cells may appear melted; adult bees become sticky or greasy and dark coloured. The adults run about noisily fanning their wings.
- ◇ Badly affected colonies may need feeding with water, or a dilute sugar/water syrup.
- ◇ Remove excess supers.
- ◇ Remove dead adult bees
- ◇ Hive beetle is ready to move in if the hive weakens or becomes vacant.

Club News

Congratulations and welcome to our new Secretary - Merridy.

Thanks to Phil for all his dedication and hard work.

Michael Worraker has our club's supplies of wax foundation and Apithor SHB traps. Please contact him on 0408 293031 or by email michael.worraker@gmail.com

Excess Honey?

Contact Matt Connell on 6657 4174. He will take your honey and you will be re-imbursed when the drum is sold.

Fees

As you're most likely aware Membership fees for 2019 are now due. The fee is \$40 and with insurance at \$20, many members are taking up the insurance. Cheap buy for peace of mind.

If you are having trouble with your payment please give me a call on 6649 0990 or contact Sheila Stokes by email web@beekeepers.asn.au



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Training Courses

1. Al Thomas will be conducting a "Beekeeping Basics" course on 2nd & 3rd February at Dowsett Inn Honey Apiary, Bowraville.
Cost is \$300 for the two days of lectures & practical tasks.
Contact Allan on 0428 712 587 or beekeepingworkshops@gmail.com
2. Steven and Trudi Hayes will be conducting another Native Bee workshop at Misabotti on the 12th February

A Day of Native Bees

12th February 2019, 9am - 5pm

Are you ready to become a native beekeeper?

In this workshop, scientists and educators Dr Tim Heard/ Tobias Smith will teach you the basics on how to become one. They will entertain and educate you at the same time. This workshop alternates between slide presentations and a practical session to build a strong foundation of knowledge and experience. The stunning slide presentation will cover the topics of:

- ◇ bees in natural systems
- ◇ traditional stingless beekeeping around the world
- ◇ modern stingless beekeeping in Australia
- ◇ using stingless bees for pollination of gardens and farms
- ◇ sugarbag honey and its properties
- ◇ rescuing bees threatened in the wild and more

In the practical session of this workshop, we will open a hive and observe the amazing structures within. We will divide the hive into two halves showing the process of colony propagation.

Cost \$150 and includes:

Full day workshop, "Bee" inspired nutritious lunch, Tea and coffee and a copy of "The Australian Native Bee Book" by Dr Tim Heard.

Mid North Coast NSW ABA members receive a 20% discount on the ticketed price - \$120 per participant.

Email Buzz@littlestar.net.au to get your code.

For further information contact Steven and Trudi Hayes on 6564 8737, buzz@littlestar.net.au

See Attached flyer for more details.

Future Meetings

March 10th meeting at "Little Star Bees" at Misabotti.

And to whet your appetite for this meeting, Steve and Trudi appeared in a news article on the ABA's Just In news section. Their focus is on natural beekeeping. Here's the link:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-01-05/bees-not-honey-the-focus-for-natural-beekeepers/10600952>



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Frank's Hive Hint No. 4

Australia is one of the best honey producing countries but production is patchy and unreliable.

What floral sources are available in your area? The annual flowering pattern in your region is important. Make notes of what is flowering and at what time of the year (even if you don't know the proper names). Some trees do not flower every year.

Are the bees attracted to the flowers? Is nectar coming in? Bees will usually land heavily and there will be a shake of fresh nectar in the combs. Watch for returning bees with pollen loads. More than one colour is beneficial. If you rob now will there be more honey available later?

Bee nutrition is very important for the health of the hive. Sometimes supplementary feeding is needed. White sugar, syrup or dry can be used. Pollen substitutes are available. If you are a determined beekeeper and manage your hives well you will succeed.

LOVE THOSE BEES.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the MNCABA will be held at the home of Malcolm and Katrina Banks.

Date: Sunday, 10th February 2019

Address: "Anabriar", 2601 Orara Way, Kremnos (3.6 kms north of Glenreagh on the left)

LOOK FOR THE BEE SIGNS

Time : 10 am for 10:30 start

Activity : There will be an hive activity

Lunch: B-B-Q at 1:00pm

Cost: \$5.00

What to Bring:

- Please bring something for lunch, morning tea and the raffles
- **Protective clothing** and
- a chair

For more Information contact Mal Banks - 6649 0990 or Phil Jury - 6568 5655.