



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW MID NORTH COAST

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Mid North Coast Amateur Beekeeping Association

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March 2020 Newsletter

Next Meeting

Date: To be confirmed

MNC ABA President's Report

Despite the day being overcast and drizzly, there was a good roll-up of members and visitors to Warren and Merridy's property. They had set up under their carport and veranda for us.

As it was far too inclement to inspect hives, the meeting evolved into a great question/answer and anecdote session. A lot of valuable information was shared together with a few laughs.

Steve Fowler demonstrated some easy and inexpensive techniques for separating honey from wax cappings. Also, how they treat and mould their wax. I had the opportunity after the meeting, to check out a system he has made using a stainless laundry tub. Talk to the Fowlers if you would like to follow up on any of this.

There was some discussion re marketing of honey. Many of us have our own clientele or market. It is important that only new jars or containers are used; ensure that the honey is well strained (ants recently found in a sample); that hygiene has been foremost at all stages of the production process; complete information is provided on the labels; and the price reflects the value of the bees, the industry, and your labour/expertise.

I can assure you that it is not under \$10Kg. I have heard of cases up to \$18kg and they are struggling to keep up the supply!

Mal mentioned that we need to have our AGM. It will be held at our next meeting. Positions will be declared vacant and nominations/elections will be held.

As always, the lunch was superb. Warren was in charge of the BBQ. Thanks to all those who contributed and assisted in the preparation and clean up.

At a recent Committee meeting, it was decided that the club could afford to contribute a major prize at our regular raffle. This month was won by Darren Barber. So, he will be attending the next beekeeping



Stephen Fowler giving a talk about extraction and de-capping

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Secretary
Treasurer:
Membership Officer:
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Committee:
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course, run by myself and catered by Merridy.

As your president, I would like to state my appreciation for all the support that I have received from the executive and ordinary members. It has made my job very easy. Please feel free to nominate if you would like to take on this position.

Regards

**Allan
President**

Thank You

Thanks to Merridy and Warren for hosting the March meeting. Special thanks to Warren, Paul and others who helped with some bogged cars (mine included) at the end of the day. The rain made a hive inspection impossible and it even spoiled an outing for a group who took the chance to walk down to the Never Never river.



Steve at Merridy's

Corona Virus Update

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 virus, all future meetings have been halted until it is safe to proceed. This could continue beyond June, which means our AGM will be held after the latest possible due date.

The Association Incorporations Act 2009 (NSW) under s37(2) requires incorporated associations hold their annual general meeting within 6 months after the close of their financial year. A summary can also be found on the NSW Fair Trading website

Clubs that follow the ABA model constitution would have closed their financial year on 31/12/2019 and thus are required to hold their AGM by 30 June 2020, which under the current circumstances might no longer be feasible.

If you have not yet held your AGM for the 2019 financial year and due to the COVID-19 pandemic will need to defer your AGM post 30 June 2020, you would need to seek extension by submitting a Form A-11 prior to the due date.

A processing fee of \$33 might apply.

If your club has already held the AGM this year, please remember to submit the A12-T2 form to Fair Trading NSW within 1 month after the AGM, otherwise the fees will go up significantly.

These are unprecedented times, and it can only be hoped that the economy and the ability to socialise will return to normal at some time.

I will continue to distribute the newsletters, but without the coverage of meetings, content may be lacking. Please do not hesitate to supply me with material for the newsletter, or if anybody has any suggested topics or queries to cover please let me know.



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Assistance

If anybody needs help with their hives, please contact me as we have members willing to help with your hives. Stephen Fowler may still be able to continue with supplies if you put in an order with him.

Bulk sugar

Dasha and her husband have just purchased some bulk sugar (25kg bags) from Harwood Farm Store (near Maclean) to feed her splits. If anyone would like to buy some and pick up from the store themselves, please see the store's address and contact details below.

Nathan has offered to help pick up some bags for anyone that may be unable to get there themselves and bring the bags back to Coffs Harbour next time he goes to Maclean (pending any lock-downs and as long as they don't sell out too fast). Please email honahleebiz@gmail.com with your name, phone number and how many bags you are thinking of ordering and he will let you know the day he will be going to be Maclean. You will then have to contact the store and pay over the phone and let the store know he will pick up your order. You will then need to be available to pick up your bags from an arranged place in Coffs Harbour.

The cost is \$25 per 25kg bag (at the moment).

Harwood Farm Store
10 Morpeth St
Harwood Island NSW 2469
(02) 6646 4913

Membership and Fees

Following the guidelines in our constitution, 31st March 2020 is the cut off date where previous members who have not renewed their membership this year will be removed from our membership and e-mailing list. Potential new members will remain on the list and still receive information and newsletters.

If you wish to pay, go to beekeepers.asn.au or contact your Membership Officer - Mal Banks - 6649 0990

The Club Raffle

Tickets are now \$5 for 1. We are trying to streamline the raffle & I have it on good authority that if you can only win one prize, it is no different to having 2 or 3 tickets for \$5. Please support the raffle, it would be great if we had enough prizes for everyone who buys a ticket to win something. Please bring eggs, plants, fruit or veg like lemons, chocolate, pumpkin, starfruit etc., jams or pickles and even a jar of honey will be snapped up by one of the newer members. If it is something unusual, please put a label on it with an explanation. A useful prize at the last raffle was some labels for honey jars. Unwanted gifts such as books and DVDs may be desirable to others, not so the vase but then you never know! The Club will also put in useful items such as tools, frames, wax and other useful items and occasionally a big-ticket item like the beekeeping course or an electric uncapping knife.

Congratulations to Darren Barber who won the voucher for the beekeeping course being run by Allan Thomas this weekend at Gleniffer. This prize was donated by the club as a bonus!



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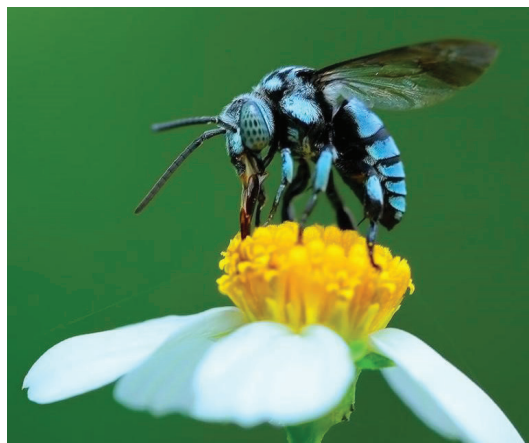
Camp Creative At Bellingen - A Week in January

In January I enrolled in Bee The Change, a beekeeping course run by Trudi and Steve Hayes from the Little Star Bee Sanctuary at Missabotti. I would thoroughly recommend this course, with only twelve participants it filled up within the first few days of bookings being open. The five day course covered both European Honey bees and Native Bees.....

Bees are integral to the future of our planet and plant species – you can be the change to help them survive. Explore cooking and fermenting with honey, making mead, purifying wax and making beeswax wraps. You'll delve into and get up close into the hives of European Honeybees, Stingless Native Bees and Native Solitary Bees. You'll develop the confidence to work with bees in your own home, including setting up hives, handling bees gently and confidently and planting a bee-friendly garden. Learn how to harvest and work with hive products, including raw honey and comb harvesting and extracting honey. You'll also assemble both a native beehive and a Nucleus Honey bee box to take home at the end of the course.

It was a great hands-on practical course and I am sure it will be run again in January 2021!

Merridy Huxley



Have You Seen This Bee?

Have you seen this native bee? Recently spotted in my garden, it is smaller than the European honey bee. Its colour is black with random fluorescent blue markings similar to the colour on Blue Banded Bees. The colour comes from the bright hairs on its body and head. It lays its eggs in the nest of the Blue Banded Bee echoing the habit of the cuckoo bird – hence its name, Neon Cuckoo Bee (*Thyreus nitidulus*).

Faye Karabaic

Bio-Security Update

The objective of the Bio-security Code of Practice is to manage diseases, decrease their spread and respond to outbreaks. Changes are designed to bring NSW into line with other states.

Beekeepers must be ready for bio-security practice from 1st July 2020.

All beekeepers must:

- ◇ Regularly inspect hives, every hive, every frame. A minimum of two inspections a year, 4 months apart or as required through the season
- ◇ Testing one hive per apiary, or stand of hives, twice a year for exotic pests, Varroa and Tropiclaelaps mites, using sugar shake, uncapping drone brood or alcohol wash techniques.
- ◇ Keep active record of these activities.

And those with more than 50 hives must:

- ◇ Have a minimum knowledge of disease management
- ◇ Submit annual honey samples for AFB spore count testing
- ◇ declare compliance with regulations and keep accurate records



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The principles of biosecurity include training beekeepers to observe signs of diseases and to control them. With adequate knowledge, beekeepers will be able to report notifiable diseases and help reduce their incidence.

Reportable diseases are:

- ◇ American Foulbrood
- ◇ European Foulbrood
- ◇ Chalk Brood
- ◇ Nosema

Report by phone 02 9741 4780, 1800 680 244 or by email to quarantine@nsw.gov.au

Mark Page

NSW DPI Bee Biosecurity Officer

Seasonal Management

Autumn

- ◇ Inspect the frames for food stores at the beginning and at the end of autumn; hives need six frames full of honey for food over winter
- ◇ Inspect the queen. Check that the queen is active on the comb, does not have worn wings or damaged legs and that she is laying compact areas of eggs
- ◇ Re-queen if necessary

Check the brood for brood disease. Look for a solid brood pattern, not more than 10 per cent of cells empty

Club News

Foundation and Apithor

Michael Worraker has our club's supplies of Wax Foundation and Apithor SHB traps. Please contact him on 0408 293 031 or by e-mail. The price of foundation will now be \$2.50 per sheet.

Services and supplies

Michael Worraker also has queen cells for sale at various times

Ross Wood - Mated queens and Nucs - (Grafton) 0421 817 710

Steve Fowler - All manner of beekeeping equipment for sale. Steve and Janet usually turn up at meetings with a ute full of gear. To pre-order call - 0418 412 621

Glenn Locke - Mt Coramba Apiculture - Flow hive mentoring and troubleshooting, queen bees and nucs. - 0459 066 297

Steve Hayes - Little Star Bees - Nucs and hives - courses with native bees. Contact - 6564 8737

Di McQueen and Scott Richardson - queens, nucs, hives and beekeeping equipment. honeybeehives.com.au
0411 097 275



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Honey Collection

For all those who have put in their honey, we are negotiating with Capilano for a Non-Contracted one-off sale. Update - We have a one-time supply contract and Matt is arranging for pick-up. MTF

Bees in The Media

Rain provides a lifeline for honey producer after drought and bushfires

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-24/welcome-rain-brings-promising-year-for-honey-producers/12080714>