

BEEKEEPERS.ASN.AU



**Amateur  
Beekeepers  
Association**  
NSW

# THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  
April/May 2019

**2019  
AWARDS**

**ENTER NOW!  
NEW  
CONTESTS**



**SHAKE!  
SHAKE!  
SHAKE!  
APRIL IS  
SUGAR  
SHAKE  
MONTH**

**JUNE  
7,8,9**

*The Art*  
& **SCIENCE  
OF BEES**

**2019 Conference Weekend**  
TALKS, WORKSHOPS  
GALA DINNER, SHOWBAGS  
TRADE SHOW, DISPLAYS  
**GET YOUR TICKETS!**

# Contents



- 3 2019 CONFERENCE**  
The Art and Science of Beekeeping  
Details of this year's special three-day bee celebration at Richmond
- 4 OUR SPEAKERS**  
Discover some of the experts who will be presenting
- 6 HOW, WHAT, WHEN AND BEDS**  
Time to make your plans. Here's what you need to know
- 7 SEASONAL TASKS**  
How to winter your bees  
**MEMBER BENEFITS**  
Log book questions answered
- 8 BEE BEHAVIOUR**  
Messy landing boards explained
- 9 PRESIDENT'S LETTER**  
How to thrive in boom times
- 10 BIOSECURITY**  
April is Sugar Shake Month. Check your bees and be a good citizen scientist
- 11 INTER CLUB CONTEST**  
Colonel Pulling gets a makeover. Here are the details of the new – and simpler to enter – contest. Be in it!
- 13 MEMBER AWARDS**  
Calling all brilliant minds, clever hands, smart thinkers and cheery faces! New awards for beekeepers
- 14 CONTACTS**
- 15 INVETERATE INVENTOR**  
Catching elusive queens

4



15

10

 Department of Primary Industries

**April is Sugar Shake Month**

**Bee Alert!**  
CHECK YOUR BEES USING THE SUGAR SHAKE TEST  
HELP DETECT AN EXOTIC PEST INCURSION EARLY

**SHAKE, INSPECT**  
**CALL IF YOU SUSPECT**

External bee parasites such as varroa, tropilaelaps mite and braula fly have not been detected in NSW

Braula fly (top), varroa mite (right), tropilaelaps mite (bottom) | Braula fly on the thorax of a queen bee | Varroa mite feeds on a bee pupa

IF YOU NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE 1800 084 881  
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU/BIOSECURITY-BEES](http://WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU/BIOSECURITY-BEES)

Image credit: DPI, Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), CSIRO, copyright Design: ANR 2018 (Antony Rodde Design) ANR 2018 (Antony Rodde Design) ANR 2018 (Antony Rodde Design)



AMATEUR BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
**2019 CONFERENCE**

*The Art*  
& **SCIENCE**  
**OF BEEKEEPING**

**WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
HAWKESBURY CAMPUS, RICHMOND  
JUNE 7, 8 & 9**

## TICKETS ON SALE!

**WHEN:** Friday evening June 7,  
Saturday June 8, Sunday June 9

**WHERE:** Hawkesbury Campus  
Western Sydney University

**WEEKEND TICKET:** \$100 ABA  
members, or \$120 public. Includes  
entry to Friday movie night; talks,  
trade show and displays on Saturday  
and Sunday; light refreshments and  
lunch on two days; free show bag

**PARKING:** \$7 a day

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** A shuttle  
bus will run from East Richmond  
train station

**GALA DINNER:** Hawkesbury  
Race Club, Clarendon. \$95, includes  
three-courses, drinks

**BOOK NOW AT**

**[ABA2019.BEEKEEPERS.ASN.AU](http://ABA2019.BEEKEEPERS.ASN.AU)**

**F**abulous news! Tickets are priced at a very reasonable \$100 for this year's beekeeper conference. As well as a wide range of expert speakers, displays and stalls, you can expect two lunches, two morning teas and two afternoon refreshments with your ticket - PLUS a showbag of surprise items to pick up at the registration desk. (Last year, some people said it was worth coming just for the showbag!)

With the venue within easy reach of many beekeepers and clubs, and last year's epic event still fresh in everyone's minds, we're expecting brisk ticket sales. So our advice is to get in quick so you don't miss out! (And even if you can't attend all weekend, it's still an amazing deal!)

This year's theme, "The Art & Science of Beekeeping", brings together both aspects of recreational beekeeping – a celebration of the wonder and beauty of bees, and the scientific study of managed and wild populations. We're busy firming up an exciting programme of speakers from Australia and overseas to appeal to all interests and levels of expertise. So get ready to be informed, entertained, and inspired!

# SOME OF OUR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

## ERIC TOURNERET

Eric is recognized around the world as **The Bee Photographer**.

A freelance photographer since 1989, Eric was first alerted to the plight of bees when French beekeepers began efforts to ban systemic insecticides. He then embarked on a closeup study of the hive, producing innovative photographs that were reproduced in major publications internationally. In 2007 he expanded his investigations with a series of features on the relation of humans to bees – from the most archaic harvesting methods, to industrial and commercial beekeeping.

Since then Eric has explored the great bee-keeping traditions in Slovenia, Germany and Turkey. He has encountered the nomads of Ethiopia and the Pygmies of the Republic of the Congo, the giant bees of India and Indonesia, the stingless bees of Brazil, Costa Rica and also the killer bees of Panama. He has discovered urban apiculture in New York, London, Berlin and Hong Kong, the honey flows of Australia, and hand pollination in China.

His images testify to a world in transition and reveal the causes of the disappearance of the bees.

He presently lives in the Ardèche region of France.



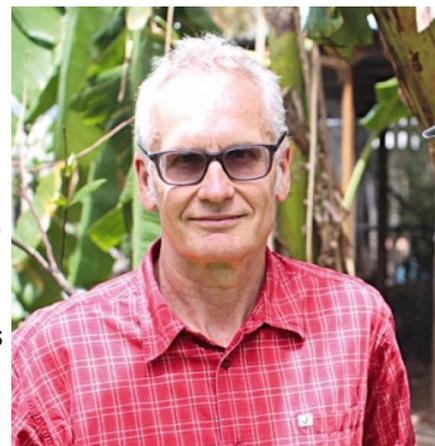
**HILARY KEARNEY** Hilary founded *Girl Next Door Honey* in 2012 in her home town of San Diego, California . Breaking from tradition, she developed a beekeeping business that does not rely on honey sales or pollination services for economic success. Instead, *Girl Next Door Honey* focuses on bee-centric programmes such as natural beekeeping classes, apiary management, classroom presentations, beehive tours, bee removals and more.

*Hilary's beekeeping exploits and business model have inspired people around the world. She is the author of the beekeeping blog Beekeeping Like A Girl and has an Instagram account with 60,000 followers. When she's not rescuing bees, teaching about bees, photographing bees or managing her 90 colonies ... she's sleeping and dreaming of bees.*

## DR TIM HEARD

Tim is an entomologist and ex-CSIRO research scientist. He has been keeping Australian native stingless bees since 1985, when he transferred his first hive from a cut down tree into a wooden box. He now keeps over 400 hives, obtained by rescuing threatened wild hives and splitting existing hives. Tim continues to develop new hive designs and techniques that allow better splitting and extraction of sugarbag and wax.

Tim has been giving seminars and workshops on native bees since 1995, is a successful author and recently helped establish the Australian Native Bee Association.





**PROFESSOR JAMES COOK** *James' research at the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, focuses on the way species interact and evolve, with particular emphasis on the relationships between insects, plants and microbes. He is studying how these relationships are disrupted by climate change, invasive species and habitat fragmentation.*

*Many of James' projects involve national and international links with strong collaborators in Australia, Brazil, China, France, UK and USA. James also has wider research interests in animal behaviour, conservation biology and evolutionary genetics.*

**DR MEGAN HALCROFT** Megan is a science communicator and conservationist who 'discovered' bees, both honeybee and native, while doing a horticulture degree. She went on to do a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree, that involved studying the Australian stingless bee *Austroplebeia australis*. For her PhD, Megan studied this native bee as an alternative (to the honey bee) crop pollinator, its foraging behaviour and energy expenditure. Megan runs workshops and creates a range of resources to promote Australian Pollinator Week in the community each November.



**DOCTOR MARK HALL** *Mark joined the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment in 2018 as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Stingless Bee Biology and Pollination Services. His work involves examining the behaviour and pollination efficiency of stingless bees in the production of glasshouse vegetables. It is conducted in conjunction with Hort Innovation.*

*Prior to this, Mark worked as a Junior Research Fellow at the University of New England in Armidale. Here, he explored interactions between different insect pollinators and their effect on the pollination and reproduction of plant species, including raspberry crops native and introduced plants.*



**DR AMY-MARIE GILPIN** Amy-Marie is an ecologist and pollination biologist at Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment. Her research is in pollination ecology, global change biology, behavioural ecology, invasion ecology and agroecology. Amy-Marie uses a variety of techniques in her work, including large scale manipulative field experiments, as well as glasshouse and growth cabinet experiments to study interactions between plant-pollinators and changes to the natural environment caused by people

*activist. based in Oregon, USA. With a background in anthropology and religious studies and a life-long student of many forms of spirituality, Laura brings a unique perspective to the study of the honey bee. As an artist and poet, she aims to connect the scientific to the sacred, and is spiritually influenced by her work in*

**LAURA BEE FERGUSON**

*Laura is a beekeeper, educator and activist. based in Oregon, USA. With a background in anthropology and religious studies and a life-long student of many forms of spirituality, Laura brings a unique perspective to the study of the honey bee. As an artist and poet, she aims to connect the scientific to the sacred, and is spiritually influenced by her work in the many apiaries she serves. Laura founded the College of the Melissa Center for Sacred Beekeeping. She presented her work and philosophy at Apimondia in Turkey in 2017*



**GINA CRANSON** As a Newcastle based artist and editor, Gina is best known to beekeepers for her native bee illustrations, particularly her series of regional posters. Working with entomologists at leading museums and research institutions, Gina draws Australian bees in fine detail. Gina began with illustrating the bees of the Hunter Region and has since produced posters of NSW, Victoria, Queensland, and South Australian bees. She is currently illustrating bees of Western Australia

**MORE SPEAKERS TO BE ANNOUNCED IN COMING WEEKS**

# CONFERENCE DETAILS

## BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW AT [ABA2019.BEEKEEPERS.ASN.AU](http://ABA2019.BEEKEEPERS.ASN.AU)

ABA financial members qualify for the \$100 weekend rate. The ABA is also extending this discount to members of NSBKA and NSWAA. Non member rate is \$120. No other discounts apply.

Lunch plus refreshments mid morning and mid afternoon will be provided on Saturday and Sunday to ticketed attendees.

Parking on campus is \$7 a day. Prepaid permits can be ordered at the same time as booking your conference ticket – or you can pay at the meters on the day.

Talks will be held in tiered lecture theatres on the campus of the university.

Coffee shop will be open all weekend

Outdoor trade stalls will be open all weekend

Pre-registration will commence at 6pm on Friday evening.

## SHORT FILM COMPETITION

The ABA is running a short film competition, ABA Bee Shorts, for the first time this year.

Entry is open to members and the public.

Films must be under 10 minutes, and may be of any genre, but must have something to do with bees

Enter online at [filmfreeway.com/ABABeeShorts](http://filmfreeway.com/ABABeeShorts)

Selected entries will be shown at the pre-registration session on Friday evening.

Winners will be announced at the Gala Dinner.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you keen to get involved and help out over the weekend? For a few hours' commitment, you get to be a part of the organising team, meet loads of bee enthusiasts such as yourself, and will be kitted out with a limited edition conference t-shirt that you can take home and wear proudly for the rest of the year!

We are currently firming up specific rosters so we can tap into the many talents among members, their family and friends.

Areas where we will need help will include conference registration desks, car park, displays and information booths, and inside and outside the lecture theatres. Shifts will be short to allow participation in the conference.

Look out for an invitation to participate coming to your email inbox soon.

## GALA DINNER SATURDAY NIGHT

The Conference dinner will be held on Saturday June 8 at Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon.

Hawkesbury Race Club is close to Clarendon rail station and there is plenty of free parking at the venue.

Ticket price is \$95, which includes a three-course meal and all drinks.

Awards will be presented for the Colonel Pulling inter-club competition, and the ABA's new contests for individual members. (See page x for details). The quiz component of the Colonel Pulling contest will be held during the dinner.

## ABA 2019 AGM SUNDAY MORNING

This will be held at 9am on Sunday June 9, at the Hawkesbury Campus of Western Sydney University at Richmond, Lecture Theatre G1.G.51 (same venue as the conference talks).

The AGM is open to all ABA members -- no conference ticket required – but to speed up entry please show your green 2019 ABA membership card.

Official notice of the AGM will be sent to all clubs in May.

## STAYING FOR THE WEEKEND?

The area has a range of accommodation catering for all budgets. Website [sydney.com/hawkesbury](http://sydney.com/hawkesbury) is a good place to start your search.

Crowne Plaza Hawkesbury Valley will be offering preferential rates to ABA conference attendees. Watch the conference website for more details soon.



## SEASONAL TASKS

# Wintering Bees

Dave Wilson explains the basics

**M**ost beekeepers will try to pack larger hives down in autumn in preparation for winter. In simple terms, this means removing surplus honey supers. This helps the smaller bee population over winter since now it has less comb to protect and less hive space to keep warm.

But what about those supers that have uncapped honey? If they are removed and simply stored in a stack with a lid top and bottom they will make a tempting target for wax moth and small hive beetle. And of course the use of insecticides such as phostoxin is not permitted for the vast majority of beekeepers.

One option is to progressively freeze these frames, keeping them at below 0° C for at least two days. This will kill any small hive beetle or wax moth eggs. The frames should be then packed in air-tight garbage bags. Keeping the bagged frames as dry and cold as possible over winter is an advantage. The concrete floor of a garage is ideal.

Another option is to pack the hive down and then place a hive mat on the top bars of the top box. The mats should cover the top bars but have a 10 to 15 mm gap around the edge. Hive mats are often made from off-cuts of vinyl flooring. One honey super with its uncapped honey can be placed over the mat.

The hive mat allows bees access to the honey super but does not allow excessive heat loss. The bees can reach the super particularly on the milder winter days and they will take the honey down to the warmer part of the hive where the colony will be clustering to retain heat. Sometimes they will remove all the honey from the top super making it dry enough to remove.

The bees will also provide some protection against pests in the top box.

The hive mat also limits the "rainfall" of condensation forming inside the lid. Some mats have an absorbent upper surface to try to prevent water dripping onto the bees in the brood box. Some beekeepers use insulated lids or place a foam layer on the top of the hive lid to try to limit condensation.

New beekeepers are urged to speak with their more experienced colleagues at their local club to get extra information – particularly to answer the question of much honey to leave as a winter store.

Like to read more on this topic? [https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/331697/Wintering-bees.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/331697/Wintering-bees.pdf) provides excellent information from Doug Somerville



## MEMBER BENEFITS

# 2019 Log Book

**Q: "I HAVEN'T ORDERED MY FREE LOG BOOK. AM I TOO LATE?"**

**A:** Club orders have closed. However you can still order online via the membership system to get a copy sent to your home. Go to [beekeepers.asn.au/sign-in](http://beekeepers.asn.au/sign-in) and select the optional extras tab. Each ABA member is entitled to one free copy of the log book. You will need to pay \$5 to cover postage.

**Q: "CAN I GET ANOTHER LOG BOOK?"**

Yes, you can! Copies of the 2019 Beekeeper's Log Book are now available for sale on our online store [beekeepers.asn.au/shop](http://beekeepers.asn.au/shop) at \$20 per copy with postage included.

**Q: "BUT I JUST WANT THE SHEETS!"**

ABA members can access the fill-in sheets by logging into their profile on the membership system. Go to [beekeepers.asn.au/sign-in](http://beekeepers.asn.au/sign-in). Download the PDF and print out as needed.

**Q: "WHY? HOW? WHO?"**

The ABA saw a need for a simple record keeping journal to meet the requirements of the Australian Biosecurity Code of Practice.

So we created one! And to ensure everyone could get a copy, we included it with this year's ABA membership.

As you can imagine, this has been a big project to design, produce and get copies to members who selected to collect a book from their club, to have it mailed direct to their home or who want a printable version.

The volunteer log book team – Sue Carney and Sheila Stokes – welcome your comments at [feedback@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:feedback@beekeepers.asn.au)

## BEE BEHAVIOUR

# Messy landing boards

Have your bees developed strange housekeeping habits? Len Verrenkamp explains what might be happening

**B**EES ARE INHERENTLY clean and tidy creatures so we don't often see – or want to see – piles of matter on hive landing boards.

One exception is when she-oaks (Casuarinas) are flowering. Yes, they do have flowers, and there are also male and female trees within the species. (I wonder, should there be she-oaks and he-oaks in that case?)

Around this time of the year the male trees can produce large amounts of pollen. When this happens the trees will turn a rusty colour. Honey bees will actively collect this pollen. However, it's low grade, with a crude protein level of around 11 to 17 per cent according to research reported by Doug Somerville. These levels are below the nutritional requirements for optimum honey bee health. A quite unique feature is the pollen grain has a husk.

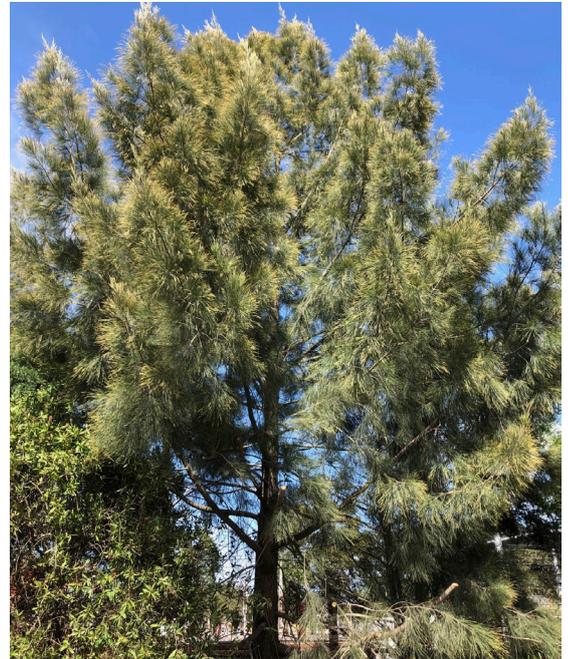
When we have a lean season, such as the one being experienced at the moment, you may see piles of these pollen husks on the landing boards of your hives. I can only assume a lone foraging bee cannot remove this husk by itself and requires the assistance of another bee or bees to remove it once back at the hive. The pollen is then taken away for storage and the husk discarded.

If we have calm days and a shower of rain these husks sitting out the front get wet and build up. That's when you get the landing board looking like the floor of a woodwork shop!

For the inexperienced beekeeper this can be quite alarming. We know bees like to keep things neat and, all of a sudden, there is this mess on the landing board that looks like torn wax cappings. Torn wax cappings are a good indication your hive is being robbed out by other bees. Any hint of such a problem needs investigating promptly with a brood inspection to assess colony health.

If you see debris building up on the landing board, investigate. Rub some of the substance between your fingers to confirm whether it's pollen husks or beeswax. If it's husks then you can brush them away or just let them dry out and blow away naturally.

If the debris is beeswax then your hive is being robbed out and it's time to investigate further with a brood inspection to assess colony health.



*FROM TOP: SHE-OAK POLLEN HUSKS CAN BUILD UP QUICKLY IF BEES ARE FORCED TO FORAGE ON THESE TREES IN LEAN TIMES; THE HUSKS ARE LIKE FINE WOOD SHAVINGS AND CLUMP TOGETHER WHEN DAMP; CASUARINAS ARE NAMED FOR THE WAY THE FOLIAGE RESEMBLES THE PLUMAGE OF A CASSOWARY BIRD*

PHOTOS: LEN VERRENKAMP



## You have been warned!

**N**eed a small but very visible sign to tell visitors to your site that bees are about? Did you know that the ABA has produced a smaller version of the sign provided to club apiaries? We have these on sale at our shop for \$10 each plus postage. It's a simple way to keep everyone alert. [beekeepers.asn.au/shop](http://beekeepers.asn.au/shop)

## Bigger and better

With more and more people focussed on bees and beekeeping, some tips for clubs and members on managing the boom times

**A**s interest in bees and beekeeping goes from strength to strength, most organisations – be they affiliated ABA clubs (now 24) or community groups that gather to learn about bees – are seeing an influx of people.

It's the same at monthly general meetings and at special events such as field days.

So, how do we all provide quality information across different levels of experience that can range from a "First time I have ever seen a bee hive!" to someone who's been successfully keeping bees for a number of years but needs higher level guidance?

Getting good advice is especially critical for the new beekeeper whose thirst for knowledge is huge. It's the perfect time for clubs and groups to help and inspire these new beekeepers so they leave a gathering feeling it was well worthwhile and are eager to return.

While groups have access to a number of useful online tools that connect people, it's the face-to-face contact that's so often craved by new beekeepers. After all our pastime is very much a hands-on activity, and there's no better way to learn about beekeeping than actually doing some beekeeping!

If you're organising or even just helping at a meeting, a little bit of thought beforehand can go a long way to making the experience of all visitors or members a positive one. New ideas, new skills or even just some thought provoking information leads to being a better beekeeper. Yes it's all about, in the words of the ABA motto, *better apiculture through knowledge*.

If you're tasked with doing, or helping with, a presentation put yourself in the position of who might be attending. A person who's just seen an programme on urban beekeeping and is considering taking the leap will likely be looking for the basics. That may be simply to understand the terminology we use to identify hive parts, or finding out where to source hardware such as boxes, or the software (bees).

The more experienced person looking to, perhaps, expand their apiary will likely be looking at ways to make their operation more efficient and mechanised. And then we have all the other people in between so it's not hard to see the dilemma!

Do some research and get a feel for "who's in the



room", identify some specific groups and then tailor activities to suit those groups. At a meeting this can be a simple question such as "Who does not have bees as yet?" with a show of hands giving a pretty good picture of how you may need to tailor your talk.

For a field day, think about using an online event ticketing system. Use this to ask some simple questions to gauge who might attend and help you to cater for most experience levels on the day. Once you have that information, look to club members who have the experience to present a topic, or talk to the ABA about who might be available from another club.

Try and approach potential speakers on a personal level with some specifics rather than just asking at the monthly meeting "Who wants to do a talk?" (This usually results in everyone looking at the floor and no takers!)

One approach I've seen work quite successfully is the "Position Vacant" advert sent out to members via email. With all the information and some time to think about it, hopefully a couple of people will respond.

For a monthly meeting, another idea I've seen work is to have some of the club's more experienced members man an information desk. This can cover a number of fronts such as beekeeping problems, membership questions, and *how to* questions. As we all know, there are a million questions to be asked about beekeeping!

Structure is another great tool to make a successful event. We're creatures of habit so set a programme and stick to it. Don't be afraid to start while people are still wandering around looking for seats. If it's start time then start. Others in the room will appreciate that things happen on time, creating more time to talk about bees and beekeeping, which is why we're there in the first place.

Remember the ABA is here to provide support to clubs, so if we can assist in any way then please get in touch.

**LEN VERRENKAMP, ABA PRESIDENT**  
president@beekeepers.asn.au

## BIOSECURITY

# APRIL: SHAKE THOSE BEES!

Here's how you can check your bees and contribute to a citizen science project at the same time

**W**HEN YOU carry out your autumn brood inspections, it is quite easy to shake some bees onto a sheet of paper and then perform a [sugar shake test](#). By doing this you will be meeting obligations under the Biosecurity Act 2016 and [Australian Honey Bee Industry Code of Practice](#).

It's also an opportunity to contribute to a bigger picture. By sending in your results during the DPI's Sugar Shake Month, you can help authorities get a better understanding of the health of Australia's bees and the location of any exotic pests. "By testing your bees, you are not only being a good beekeeper, you are also contributing to a data set that helps prove Australia is free of varroa," explains DPI Bee Biosecurity Officer Mark Page.

Varroa is a parasitic mite that has inflicted widespread damage on bee populations around the world but has yet to reach Australia. Smart, swift and concerted action is needed by everyone to keep it out.

Says Page, "Let's get some data gathered!"

Go to [dpi.gov.au/biosecurity-bees](http://dpi.gov.au/biosecurity-bees) to log that you have undertaken a sugar shake, and enter information and a photo as confirmation. Alternatively you can email [mark.page@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mark.page@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or text/phone in your details to 0409 299 415. Entrants will go in a draw to win a Beeco smoker.

Exotic pests can come in via a variety of ways. Increased global travel, shorter flight times and beekeepers across the world making contacts via social media: all make it increasingly easy for beekeepers to visit hives in countries that have varroa and inadvertently bring back mites on contaminated equipment.

### FIND OUT MORE

For information on how to perform a sugar shake, how to make a shaker, facts about varroa and more, go to [beekeepers.asn.au/sugarshake](http://beekeepers.asn.au/sugarshake)

The DPI has information for Sugar Shake Month at [dpi.gov.au/biosecurity-bees](http://dpi.gov.au/biosecurity-bees) [beeaware.org.au](http://beeaware.org.au) has lots of good information on varroa and other pests and diseases



Since varroa can survive up to five days without feeding from a live bee, the risk of introduction is very real.

### VARROA FACTS

- Stay on adult bees four to 11 days and maybe longer if the colony has no brood. Varroa leave the adult bee to enter a brood cell to begin laying
- Prefer to breed in drone brood cells. Mite numbers will increase more rapidly when drone brood is present in a colony
- Populations increase faster in climates that support year round brood rearing
- Varroa can be spread by drifting bees, foraging bees and, of course, robber bees
- Visual sighting is a poor detection method. (In New Zealand it's thought that Varroa could have been present for up to five years before it was discovered.)
- Early detection and action is essential if Australia is to stop varroa from taking hold

If you suspect a Varroa incursion, call the Exotic Pest Hotline 1800 084 881 immediately.

*TOP: SUGAR SHAKE KIT WITH MESH-LIDDED JAR, ICING SUGAR MIX AND SPOON. BELOW: SUGAR COATED BEES RELEASED AT THE END OF THE TEST*



# Is your club the next winner of the Col Pulling Trophy?

**T**his year, the Colonel Pulling interclub competition is full of familiar elements plus a few new sections and some revised criteria. The revamp has been introduced following consultation with clubs to make the competition easier to enter and to reflect of the range of activities favoured by our more than 2000 members across the state.

The Bruce White Award for the best developing/ small club will be awarded to the highest ranking club in the main competition that either a) formed in the last two years, or b) has fewer ABA members than 50 per cent of currently affiliated clubs.

Entry details are being sent direct to clubs.

## 2019's FIVE SECTIONS

### 1. Apiary Products

We have 15 classes but you need enter a minimum of seven classes, of which

four must be honey classes  
and three must be non-honey classes.

If your club enters more than the minimum number of seven classes your best four honey and best three non-honey marks count.

- Liquid honey: Very light (Pfund reading 0-15). Light (16 - 24). Medium (35 to 59) . Dark (60 to 120). Enter 3 x 500g jars per class
- Natural granulation honey 3 x 500g jars
- Creamed honey 3 x 500g jars
- Liquid chunk honey (chunk same source at least 40 x 110mm) 3 x 500g jars
- Frame of capped comb honey. 1 frame of any dimension
- Beeswax block, natural colour 500g
- Moulded candles, natural beeswax x 2
- Dipped candles, less than 3cm diameter natural beeswax x 2
- Pollen, cleaned dried 1 x 500g jar
- Sweet mead 2 x 750ml unlabelled bottles
- Dry mead 2 x 750ml unlabelled bottles
- Beeswax wraps 3 x 30cm square cotton, any pattern, unwrapped, flat, with recipe

Extra points will be awarded for evidence of club participation in the entry selection or product creation

Liquid honey to be entered in a standard 500g/375ml glass round jar with a white 63mm plastic or white metal lid.

Mead to be entered in a screw top, clear, colourless wine bottle. No lettering, decoration or fluting.

Beeswax block must be moulded into a cylinder shape or flat-sided block. No fancy shapes.

Candles must be made from natural beeswax with no colouring or additives.

Liquid honey is judged on flavour (25), density (25), colour (25), aroma (10), clearness (10), brightness (5).

Creamed and naturally granulated honey is judged on evenness of grain (30), flavour (30), firmness (30), colour (10).

Comb honey is judged on fullness (30), colour of cappings (30), evenness (20), general appearance (20).

Chunk honey is judged on colour (30), comb appearance (30), flavour (30), clearness (10).

Mead is judged on flavour (50), aroma (20), appearance (20), mouthfeel (10).

Beeswax is judged on colour (35), clearness (25), general appearance (30), aroma (10).

Dipped candles are judged on appearance (25), burn response and wick (35), feel (10), ease of lighting (10), cleanliness (20).

Decorative candles are judged on appearance (50), burn response and wick (20), feel (10), ease of lighting (10), cleanliness (10).

Pollen is judged on taste (25), cleanliness (25), hardness (20), general appearance (30).

Beeswax wraps are judged on feel (20), flexibility (30) uniformity (20), appearance (30).

The frame of capped comb honey can be any dimension and from any hive system. Must be displayed in a sealed display case. Edge of the frame must be visible for judging.

Entries must be hand delivered to: Hawkesbury Campus of Western Sydney University between 6 pm and 7pm on Friday June 7, 2019.

Each club is responsible for setting up their display on a table provided by the ABA, and for attaching identification labels which will be provided when delivering products.

Products can be collected after 5pm on Saturday

June 8 or on Sunday June 9.

Judging will take place during the Saturday and results announced during the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening.

## 2. Club Report

This year we are asking clubs to complete an online form. Six questions. Each answer will be marked for evidence of **CLUB ENERGY, INITIATIVE** and **EXCELLENCE**.

**Health of club** How has your membership changed over the year? Tell us about growth, participation and membership.

**Local relevance** How does your club meet the specific needs of local beekeepers? Tell us about how your club caters to regional needs.

**Community participation** How has your club joined in local community events in the last 12 months? Tell us about shows, markets, exhibitions or any other event open to the local population and visitors.

**Training** What does your club do to help members develop beekeeping skills? We'd like to hear about any training either class based or in the apiary.

**Club organisation** Give us evidence of how engaged and organised your committee is, your programme of meetings, communications to members, and ways your members get involved in running the club

**Services to members** What do you offer to members aside from face-to-face meetings and practical sessions?

A link to the online form will be forwarded to the club secretary by May 1, to be completed by May 31.

## 3. Club Initiative

Here's an opportunity to nominate one project your club is proud of from the last 12 months. This will be judged on 'the idea', execution, participation, and value to amateur beekeeping/bee health.

We're not placing any limits on what qualifies as an 'initiative'. Give us an outline and we will contact you if we require further information prior to judging. Special consideration will be given to ideas that can be replicated by other clubs. The initiative must have been completed or released in 2018/19.

A link to the online form will be forwarded to the club secretary by May 1, to be completed by May 31.

## 4. Quiz

This year our quiz will be 'user generated'. We are asking clubs to submit up to five questions

(and answers) each.

20 questions will be selected for the quiz contest held during the conference weekend in June and others used in the journal throughout the year.

Questions can be about **BEES, BEE HEALTH, HIVE MANAGEMENT** or **BEE TRIVIA**.

We will be looking for a range of questions that are entertaining and highlight beekeeping knowledge relevant to ABA members.

Each question needs four multiple-choice answers. We need to be able to check the correct answer so we'll ask for your sources. Answers will be checked prior to the quiz session at the conference.

To encourage clubs to enter questions, the top three club efforts (as judged by the competition panel) in submitting questions will be awarded extra points.

Clubs can enter a team of up to six members to compete in the quiz in person at the conference.

Clubs will not be marked on questions they have submitted – scores will be prorated.

A link to the online form for submitting questions will be forwarded to the club secretary by May 1, to be completed by May 31.

## 5. Photography

This year's topic is "THIS IS US"

Images will be judged on originality, photographic quality and how clearly they depict the character of each club.

Images should feature some or all members in an apiary or specific local surroundings.

Please take some time to set up the photo. It should reflect the energy and personality of your particular club. It can be a 'class photo' or any other formal or informal setup that you choose.

Clubs should submit at least one image and not more than three.

If more than one image is submitted the competition panel will select the most appropriate image to go into the contest.

Images remain the property of the photographer/club.

By submitting them for the competition, the photographer and club give permission for the ABA to use the images to promote amateur beekeeping and the activities of the ABA.

Club entries will be on display during the conference weekend.

Image/s must be submitted via an online link to be provided to club secretaries.

# ABA 2019 INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE!

Enter one contest. Or enter all  
Entry forms are available now at [beekeepers.asn.au/contest](http://beekeepers.asn.au/contest)



## BEEKEEPING INVENTION OF THE YEAR

Have you devised a gadget or device that makes beekeeping life easier? We'd love to hear about it.

Entry by competition entry form, including images and description.

Finalists will be given a free ticket to attend the conference gala dinner and may be asked to explain or demonstrate their invention during the evening.

## ART OR CRAFT PROJECT CELEBRATING BEES



Calling all creatives. This is your chance to gain statewide fame and show off your artistic skills. This is a wide open category -- you can submit an original work in any medium: for example woodwork, print, fabric, paint, dance . . . even cake..

Item judged on: skill, originality, visual impact. Judging panel and a members' choice awards.

Entries will be displayed at the conference and winners will be announced at the gala dinner.

## BEEKEEPER SELFIE



Here we're looking for the best image of an ABA member with their bees. Send us selfie (portrait looking at camera) of yourself in beekeeping setting and tell us in up to 200 words about your adventures with bees, where you live and which club you belong to.

We will feature the best images during the dinner and in the journal during the year.

All featured beekeepers will receive a prize.

## HONEY LABEL/PACKAGING

Let's celebrate excellence in honey presentation beyond just the regularly judged criteria for honey.

Submit up to three honey products in any type of packaging. Remember: this category isn't about what's inside the jar or box. It's about how you have presented or marketed it to make it attractive to potential customers or recipients. Entries will be judged on design, compliance to regulations, execution and text.

Members' choice awards.



Entry forms will be available at [beekeepers.asn.au/contest](http://beekeepers.asn.au/contest) and must be submitted online by May 20. You don't need to attend the conference to enter, but we hope you will choose to be there. After all, it'd be a shame to miss out on this special weekend and the glory if you win a prize – or two

## SYDNEY BEE SHOP

Our beekeeping shop in Matraville stocks most gear for the hobby beekeeper, offering Australian made or assembled equipment where possible.

We've personally tested all our gear and only stock products we'd use ourselves.

Save time – order online for instore pick-up or we can deliver for \$10 in Sydney.

[shop.theurbanbeehive.com.au](http://shop.theurbanbeehive.com.au)



U21, 19 McCauley st Matraville 2036  
Phone 02 9232 5600  
Open Thu - Fri 10 – 5 Sat 10 – 3  
or by Appointment at other times.

Ask us about our discounts for ABA members!

## Tony Collector Pty Ltd – Tanks & Drums

Unit 1-3, 53 Hobart Street, Riverstone NSW 2765

We're promoting our containers and drums to the beekeeper community. Containers are suitable for storing rain water, liquid or material for human and animal consumption. **We offer a 10% discount to all members of the ABA.**

**1000L Brand New IBC's Container**  
Original Price: \$300  
Member Price: \$270  
Size about:  
1200 x 1000 x 1100  
Weight: 55-56 kg



**1000L Reconditioned IBC's Container**  
Original Price: \$170  
Member Price: \$153



**220L Reconditioned Plastic Open Top Drum with Screw lid**  
Original Price: \$25  
Member Price: \$22.50  
Size: 405 D x 1000 mm H



Please call Maxine on 02 9838 1873 or Tony on 0425 296 343 for details

## ABA Contacts 2019



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### WANT TO ADVERTISE IN THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER?

We accept advertisements for beekeeping related products or services of interest to our members.

Ads offering a significant benefit or discount to ABA members may qualify to run free of charge.

June issue DEADLINE: May 15

[editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:editor@beekeepers.asn.au)

## DIY GADGETS

# THE INVETERATE INVENTOR is . . . catching queens

Here's a device that makes it easier to isolate a queen bee

There was an excellent article by Bruce White in the last issue of this journal about finding the queen in a bee colony.

Mostly the queen can be spotted on the brood frames but occasionally she remains elusive. One of the methods detailed by Bruce involves putting a queen excluder under a box that contains the brood frames after they have had their bees shaken onto the ground. The idea is the bees from the colony will enter the hive to return to the brood box. Since the excluder is in their path, the queen (and any drones) will be trapped outside the excluder. The queen should now be more readily identified.

The Inveterate Inventor has developed a queen filter box to make this process easier. A half depth or ideal box has part of one end removed (jig-saw) and some timber screwed to the front to allow a plastic excluder to cover both the open end of the box and also to drop onto the base so that bees can only enter the box via the excluder.



If you want to be doubly certain then a regular excluder can be placed on top of the half depth box.

The image shows the filter box on a base with queen excluder in place. A full depth box is sitting on the filter box.

So how does it work in the field?

First remove any honey supers from the hive with the elusive queen. If there is no excluder be careful not to accidentally remove the queen with the honey supers. These can be placed on an upturned lid with another lid on top to isolate these bees.

The remaining brood box and base are moved a small distance away – say two meters – from the original site. Then the new base, queen filter box and empty full depth box are placed exactly where the elusive queen hive once sat. A cloth sheet can be placed in front of the base, filter box and super.

The bees on the brood frames can be shaken onto the sheet and the brood frames devoid of bees can be



placed in the full depth box on top of the filter box. It is worth covering this box after each brood frame is added just in case you have a queen that will fly direct to the brood. Mated queens that are actively laying



cannot fly but queens in late autumn and early spring can fly a short distance.

Attracted by the brood, the bees will march into the filter box and new brood box via the excluder. Often the queen can be spotted on the white sheet. After about 10 minutes or so there will be few bees left on the outside. The queen should be among them.

## ARE YOU AN INVENTOR?

Here's your chance

The ABA is launching a contest to find the Beekeeping Invention of the Year. Your DIY item doesn't have to be complicated. But it must provide a solution to a common issue faced by recreational beekeepers. Enter now and showcase your skills.

See page 13 for details.