



The Macarthur Beekeeper

March 2021

Views expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the committee, the members, or the Association



WHAT'S INSIDE

- ★ President's Update
- ★ Welcome Newbees
- ★ Apiary Goings On
- ★ AGM Results
- ★ Bee Informed
- ★ Sponsorship
- ★ Beekeeper's Puzzle
- ★ Meetings & Events
- ★ Classifieds

USEFUL LINKS

MBA Website:
<https://macarthur.beekeepers.asn.au>

MBA Public Facebook:
<https://facebook.com/macbeekeepers>

MBA Members Only Group:
facebook.com/groups/macbeekeepermembers

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Greetings fellow Beekeepers.

I will start by saying it is an honour to have received your trust and serve as the Club President for another year.

I would once again thank all who held office last year and welcome the new faces who have volunteered to assist the club this year. I encourage all our Club Officers outgoing and incoming to connect with each other for transfer of information and sharing of details of what each role is required to do. I am certain the new officers would greatly appreciate and benefit from this. I will be coordinating a get together of the club officers later this month so we can get to know each other a bit better and start work on laying out a plan for the year ahead.

In regard to Covid-19 it is very pleasing to see the roll out of vaccinations commence and the relaxing of restrictions due to declining community transmissions. We will remain on our guard and adhere to our Covid-Safe Plans.

Our Face to Face Club Meetings can cater for up to 25 people and we will continue to restrict Field Days to a maximum of 30 as that provides a workable number of 15 in the apiary and 15 on the lawn area outside.

Continues on Page 2...

The system of pre-registration will continue and I do encourage members to participate where it is practical for you to do so, making the effort to get out and about and meeting with other beekeepers can be extremely rewarding.

Over the past month I have reached out to an organisation who repurpose shipping containers for use as offices, homes, recreational buildings. I have explained our situation to them and they may be in a position to assist the club in preparation and submission of the documentation requested by the MCSL in granting permission for the erection of a facility to act as a honey extraction, equipment storage and education centre by the apiary. Now the AGM is complete, these details will be passed to the appointed Club Executive Committee for consideration.

The past month has seen us preparing for the Club's AGM which was held on March 17th. Through a number of mail outs I sought to provide members with information on the positions which the club needs to have filled in order to run effectively, an overview of the process involved and circulation of the nomination forms. I hope members found this information useful and from my personal perspective it was great to see the nominations received and people putting up their hands to volunteer within the club.

In the email providing members the option to pre-register for face-to-face attendance at the AGM members were also provided a link to the club's annual Financial Statement and the President's Annual Report. Both were physically mailed to members known to have no email accounts.

The President's Annual Report provides additional detail to this month's report.

As I said last month, with the variations in weather we have been experiencing, remain diligent in observing your hives, look for changes, examine the content of trays beneath your hive as they provide a good indication of what is happening without opening the boxes. Piles of fine wax cappings for example are an indication of hatching brood while SHB larvae are an indication that SHB are upstairs and if left uncontrolled may cause bigger problems as our bee numbers start to decline in the colder weather. If you are unsure of what you see or what to do then ask for advice as that is one of the great benefits of being part of MBai.

Happy Beekeeping!

Ed



WELCOME NEWBEEES

Welcome to our latest members!

Sam Luu
Bev Allen
Anthony Allen
Tiana Musico
Cameron Garcia
Duane Cantwell



APIARY GOINGS ON

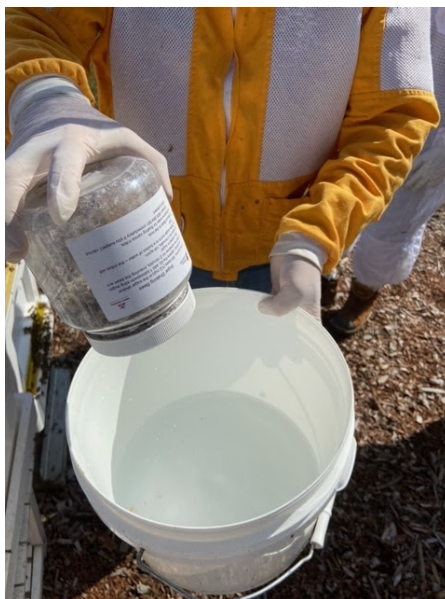
March Field Day

After a misty start to the morning the sun came out for a glorious field day. There was a lot going on in the apiary, with James our apiary officer explaining the importance of monitoring the hive for pest and diseases, opened the hives, and showing how to do testing for AFB or EFP suspicion on a “smear glass” that would be sent to the Lab. We also showed the performance of beetle traps either with diatomaceous earth or oil and for coming April how to do the “Sugar Shake Test”.

We collected the bees into a jar, added sugar and gave them a shake. While doing this we spoke about the importance of this test and that Australia is still Varroa free.

We also transfer the bees into the Flow Hive (task pendent of the February Field Day)

Outside the apiary Rob went through preparations for doing an inspection for pests and disease as well as taking notes and what to look for when doing these inspections.



2021 AGM RESULTS

The club's AGM was held on Wednesday the 17th of March. Below are the outgoing and incoming club officers and assistants for 2021/2022.

Position	2020 Office Bearer (Outgoing)	2021 Office Bearer (Incoming)
President	Ed Napiorkowski	Ed Napiorkowski
Vice President	Jessie Bijork	Rhonda Savva
Treasurer	Michael Clark	Lindsay Constance
Secretary	Brett Matthews	Brett Matthews
Apiary	James Templeman	James Templeman
Editor	Christine Miller	Melanie Taraborrelli
Library	Caroline Bowman	Caroline Bowman
Webmaster	Rob Weekhout	Rob Weekhout
Membership	Michael Clark	Rob Weekhout
Liaison	Rhonda Savva	Rebecca Rinaldo
Equipment	Michael Clark	Anthony Martin
Education / Biosecurity	Torsten Engelhardt	Torsten Engelhardt
Facebook	Ed Napiorkowski	Ed Napiorkowski
Sales & Marketing	Jessie Bijork	Jeanette Howie
Garden	Dallys Napiorkowski	Dallys Napiorkowski
Garden Assistant	-	Peter Simpson
Apiary Assistant	-	Pradeep Anirudhan

BEE INFORMED

Member contributions/Research articles

Aphrodesiac Honey?

By Samantha Turnbull

Apiarist Gabrielle Morley (80 years old) began her beekeeping journey in her late 70s when she wanted to collect pollen from her date palms but was competing with the bees. So, she decided to start her first colony and now she's selling her honey to the Middle East.

This market loves the taste of her honey, that it's pure and for its medicinal benefits- the Phoenix palm pollen is a natural aphrodisiac and fertility enhancer. Gabrielle has developed her property in the Byron Bay area into a bee sanctuary; aware that bees needed a balanced diet she planted nutrient dense plants and medicinal herbs such as lemon balm, lavender, alyssum anise hyssop and jelly bush (manuka).



Above: Date Palm plantation

For more info see Landline episode 13th March 2012.

Continues on Page 6...

A couple of articles from ABC Bee News

Looking after your hives in cyclones and extreme storms by *Nathalie Fernbach*

Even though in the Macarthur area we don't experience these extreme weather conditions I found a couple of interesting points:

- Secure your hives in the event of a severe storm with a strap (and if in a severe one, also secure to the ground with star pickets and wire);
- Wear a suit if your hive has fallen over as bees can be agitated to find their home on its side!
- Usually after standing the hive back up, "...they're as good as gold", said Townsville Beekeepers Association President, Mick Olsen.

For more info see:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-10-23/beekeeper-tips-to-secure-hives-storm-season/12796960>



Australian Beekeepers Struggling with Poor Season as La Nina, Climate Change Take a Toll

by *Bridget Hermann & Grace Whiteside*

- Many apiarists have been feeding their bee colonies to keep their hives in good condition ahead of pollination and the winter months
- In South Australia, La Nina's cool but dry weather conditions provided less pollen and nectar for bees. "There are more frequent and more extreme fluctuations in temperature and in wider weather..." said Ben Hooper, a Tintinara-based producer. His honey production is down by 40%.
- "Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Chair, Trevor Weatherhead AM said the season was below average for most states except for Tasmania."

- “University of Adelaide researcher Katja Hogendoorn said the dry periods were having a ‘major impact’ on feed availability for native and honey bees. The very hot summers and heatwaves during spring causes flowers to dissipate very quickly, she said. Eucalypts appear to flower without producing much nectar at all. Not every summer is extremely hotbut the average temperature has gone up...”

For more info see:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2021-03-02/dry-honey-season-sees-apiarists-struggle-to-keep-bees-fed/13202948>

Queen Bee Shortage *by Jessica Schremmer*

- While the number of beehives/beekeepers has increased, the number of commercial queen bee breeders in Australia has been declining over the past 20 years
- Queen bees are vital to each beehive to lay fertilised eggs. While a young queen can lay up to 2000 eggs a day, this amount declines with age.
- If there are no younger queen bees to replace them, then honey production will go down
- Kerry Chambers who recently took up queen breeding said grafting queens wasn't easy. “...you have to pull out a frame that has day old larvae,” she said. “You have to have good eyesight and a steady hand.”



The special tool used to transfer small larvae into a queen bee cup.

For more info see:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-24/queen-bee-shortage-leaves-beekeepers-struggling-to-rebuild-hives/13067044>

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Tim's
Garden Centre

2 Queen St, Campbelltown, NSW 2560
Ph: 02 46267022
Trading Hours: 8.30am - 5.00pm

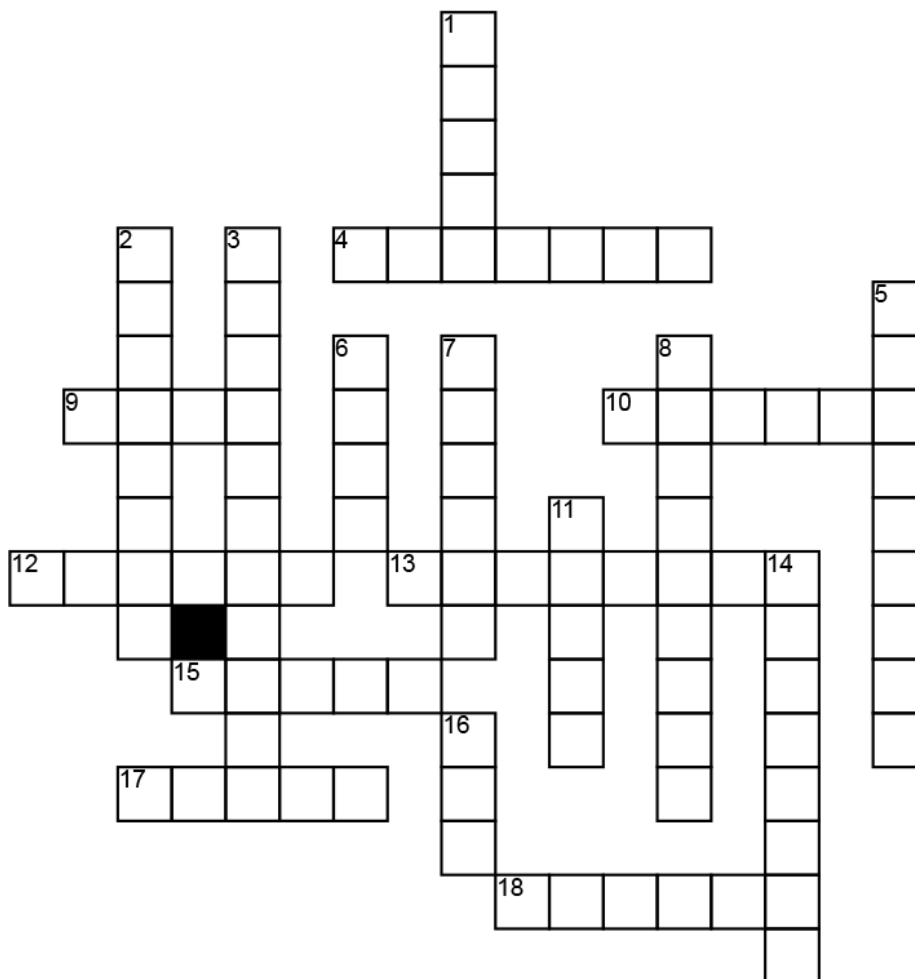
[f](#) [i](#) [You Tube](#) [t](#)



BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE

Answers on the last page!

MBAi March Beekeeper's Puzzle



Across

- 4. Type of honey with fine smooth crystallization
- 9. A protective cover for your face
- 10. The dance bees use to communicate
- 12. The centre part of a bees body
- 13. Bees who search for nectar and pollen
- 15. Bees have two sets of these so they can fly
- 17. Sweet substance harvested from bee hives
- 18. Helps keep bees calm when opening a hive

Down

- 1. A male bee
- 2. Metal device used to open hives
- 3. An important function bees perform for plants
- 5. A person who takes care of bees
- 6. The number of eyes a bee has
- 7. This type of bee lays eggs in another bees home
- 8. This type of bee makes holes in wood
- 11. Bees drink this
- 14. Bees that do not live in a colony are _____ bees
- 16. The substance used to make comb

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Please check the calendar on the MBAi website for event updates: macarthur.beekeepers.asn.au
 Deadline for submissions for our next newsletter is Sunday 11th April.

Submit articles with photos separately (not embedded in the document) or advertisement requests to Christine at: macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au

PLEASE NOTE

Club meetings will continue to be held online via Google Meet till further notice. There will be pre-registration for a small number of people to attend at the MCSL

APRIL 2021

Sugar Shake Month

10th - Field Day

11th - Close for Newsletter

18th - Newsletter out

21st - Meeting 7:30pm

MAY 2021

8th - Field Day

9th - Close for Newsletter

16th - Newsletter out

19th - Meeting 7:30pm

JUNE 2021

12th - Field Day

13th - Close for Newsletter

16th - Meeting 7:30pm

20th - Newsletter out



Camouflaged - Photo by Rhonda Savva

CLASSIFIEDS

Club Shirts

Contact Jessie or Michael at the next meeting
With Name \$65
Without Name \$60

Club Honey

Now available in 500gm
1 kg Tubs Contact Jessie on 0409845625

WANTED TO BUY
Large quantities of honey on a regular basis.
Call Mark on 0408 412 272

For Sale \$20.00 Flow Hive 2 - Ant Proof Petals

To protect your Flow Hive 2 from ants, these screw on to the flow hives existing threaded legs. The smaller bottom petal is partly filled with oil while the top petal acts as a roof to keep rain and bees out of the oil. Currently available in yellow or red. Pickup from Mt Annan. Contact Ed. 0439 303 422 or ednap1960@gmail.com



Newsletter Advertising Short line with phone nos. = Free, Size up to 60mm by 40mm (one per member) = Free. Non-member = \$10/per month Required to renew your ad each month. Provide artwork to: Macarthur.editor@macbeekeepers.asn.au

Club equipment available to Members

The following equipment is available for use by club members:

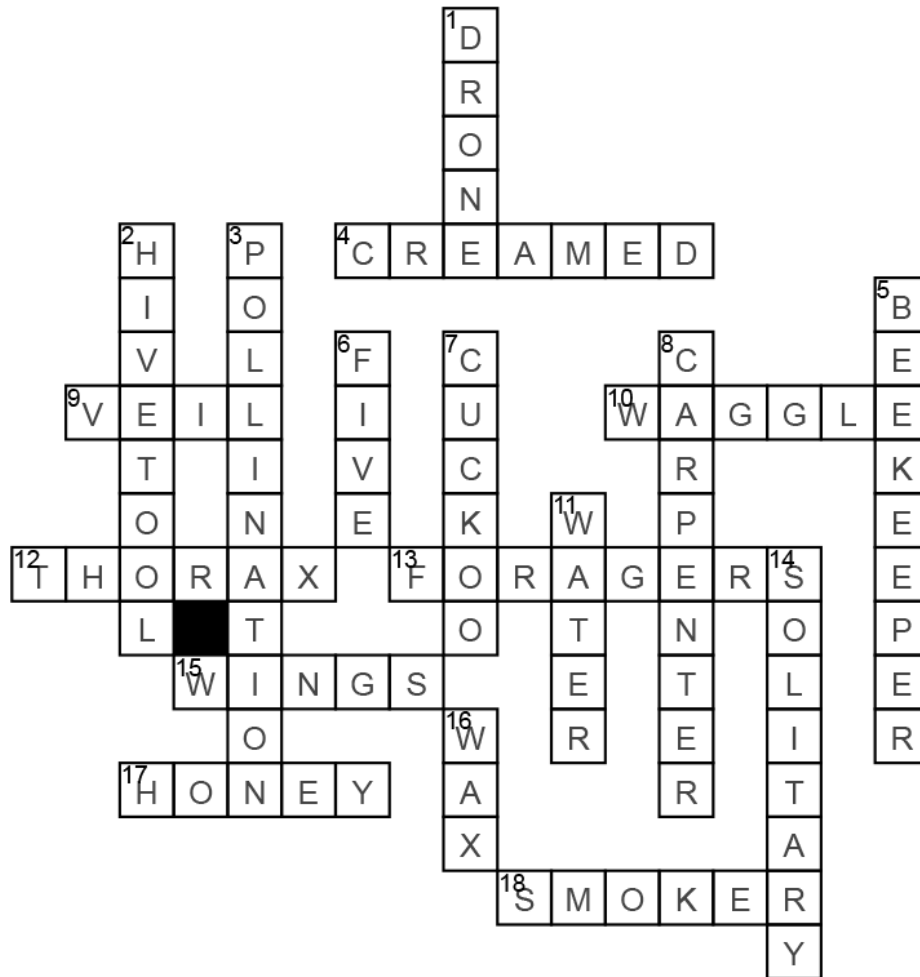
- A two-frame manual extractor.
- An electric uncapping knife.
- A Cappings draining tray set.

For use contact Ed
Via email macarthur.president@beekeepers.asn.au
Or phone: 0439 303 422

All equipment must be returned in a clean condition ready for the next user.

BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE ANSWERS (PAGE 9)

MBAi March Beekeeper's Puzzle



Across

- 4. Type of honey with fine smooth crystallization
- 9. A protective cover for your face
- 10. The dance bees use to communicate
- 12. The centre part of a bees body
- 13. Bees who search for nectar and pollen
- 15. Bees have two sets of these so they can fly
- 17. Sweet substance harvested from bee hives
- 18. Helps keep bees calm when opening a hive

Down

- 1. A male bee
- 2. Metal device used to open hives
- 3. An important function bees perform for plants
- 5. A person who takes care of bees
- 6. The number of eyes a bee has
- 7. This type of bee lays eggs in another bees home
- 8. This type of bee makes holes in wood
- 11. Bees drink this
- 14. Bees that do not live in a colony are _____ bees
- 16. The substance used to make comb