



The Macarthur Beekeeper

May 2021

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



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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 do hope you are happy and healthy!

Another busy month has passed and unfortunately it also included yet another outbreak of Covid-19 cases in NSW which caused a resumption of specific controls such as restrictions to the number of guests in the family home, attendance at weddings, and masks on public transport and in retail outlets. Our Field Days are still OK to accommodate the 30 participants and similarly our face-to-face meetings can also continue with 29 attendees, though we will have to make sure we do not break into song as singing in groups has once again become no-no. A reminder that our fundraising raffles will resume from the May face-to-face club meeting, providing members the opportunity to win some bargains while generating a bit of additional income for the club. As I have said previously, we will continue with the system of pre-registration for the face-to-face participation in Club Meetings and our Field Days as this is working. I do encourage members to participate in both events where it is practical for you to do so.

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There are quite a number of activities coordinated across the club this month. Last month I informed the club in seeking to encourage an increased interaction between members. We are inviting Members to share their contact details which will be made available in a hard copy Club Members Directory. The directory will record members; Full Name, Suburb, Phone Number, and email address. Having your details included in the directory is voluntary, no details will be included without the permission of the relevant club member. So if you are interested in sharing your details with other members, can you please provide these to either our;

Membership Officer, Rob Weekhout Macarthur.Membership@Beekeepers.asn.au or our Liaison Officer, Rebecca Rinaldo Macathur.Liaison@Beekeepers.asn.au

Our Club Secretary, Brett Matthew, has been able to assist in securing a used shipping container the club will purchase for the safe storage of Club equipment. The container will be situated on the property of our club's Equipment Officer, Anthony Martin.

This month has also seen a resumption of club honey sales and a Bee Education presence at Bunnings, the first being on May 8th. A reminder that we are also permitting members who volunteer to man the Bunnings stalls the opportunity to sell some of their own honey or bee related products in addition to selling Club honey.

Our Apiary Officer, James Templeman, has been working on a schedule of activities for our field days which is currently being consolidated and will be published for members once finalised to assist in choosing which field days are of most relevance to them.

As promised, you should have noted a slight change to our April club newsletter with Newsletter Editor, Mel Taraborrelli, including additional content from our various Club Officers. I do hope you find the articles informative and educational. Please support Mel by sharing photographs and news bits with her to keep the newsletter fresh.

At the April meeting there was significant discussion regarding the ongoing control of Small Hive Beetle (SHB) with some members reporting difficulty in obtaining diatomaceous earth (DE) for use in base board trays or beetle traps. It was suggested the club explore the option of making a bulk purchase and then making small lots available to members for purchase. After investigation, I have placed an order for 15kg of DE and upon arrival we will be making smaller lots, possibly 500g, available for purchase. Looks like the pricing will be around the \$5.50 mark in order to cover costs. Stay tuned for additional details.

I have completed my hive inspections and downsized the majority of my hives for winter with the exception of two hives which are still going gangbusters but these too will be reduced shortly. How are you going with your inspections? A reminder that evidence of your Sugar Shake test via digital photograph of the results is required to be submitted to the DPI along with your beekeeping details and the date when the test was conducted. We received a good reminder from Miskell Hampton, our April guest speaker, that in addition to using the sugar shake to test for mites we also need to be inspecting for other diseases such as AFB, EFB, chalkbrood etc. If you find something you are unsure about, I recommend you snap a photo. You can post it on our Member's Only Facebook Group or contact one of the Club Officers or another Club Member for some advice.

Happy Beekeeping!

Ed



WELCOME NEWBEES

Welcome to our latest members!

Alexandra Frutos

Waed Zaitouna

Luke Magro



APIARY GOINGS ON

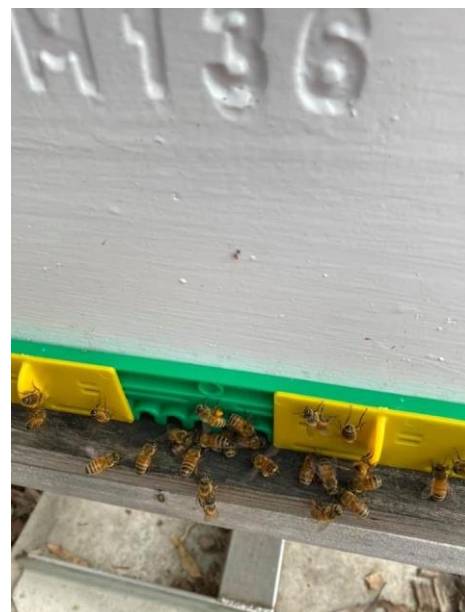
May Field Day

The day started with Rhonda, our Vice President, greeting our members by the entrance of the Sustainable Centre for our Field Day on May 8th. Torsten, our Biosecurity & Education Officer, welcomed our attendees to the Field Day.

Outside the Apiary, Torsten and Rob shared their knowledge on activities that we can carry out in winter to prepare us for spring such as repairing and cleaning frames. They also provided advice on wintering bees and held a Q&A session allowing many of the attendees to have their concerns of their own hives addressed.

In the Apiary, we completed some general hive cleaning and preparation for winter. Our members were suited up, and helped to refill the hive feeders and gain a further understanding as to why hives might need feeding and the signs to look out for. Our members could also see the different styles of traps for small hive beetles (SHB). The apiary hives are unfortunately housing many unwelcome SHB guests, like many hives in the area, and therefore we have traps in the hives, as well as reduced entrances in an effort to help the bees defend themselves.

James



SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Hello MBAi Club members,

As you know the Macarthur Beekeepers Association is a member of NSW Amateur Beekeepers Association (ABA). The ABA provides information and support to 33 affiliated clubs, covering over 4500 amateur beekeepers.

Future monthly newsletters will include updates on ABA activities.

For this month's newsletter, recent ABA activities of note include:

1. A submission from the ABA to the Department of Planning about proposed amendments to regulations aimed at assisting agritourism business. Some of the proposed amendments were ambiguous and open to interpretation. The ABA's submission aims to remove any ambiguity by recommending certain clauses be aligned to the DPI's Beekeeping Code of Practice for NSW (December 2017). Please revert if you wish to receive more information about this.
2. Renewal of insurance covering all activities undertaken by affiliated clubs. Please revert if you would like a copy of the club activities to be covered by the renewed insurance.
3. Sugar Shake Kits
The ABA provided over 500 sugar shake kits to affiliated clubs recently with the MBAi receiving a batch.
4. The affiliation of two new Clubs, Cumberland and Albury
Interest in bees and beekeeping continues to grow with the ABA welcoming two new clubs, Cumberland and Albury in March 21.

Also, for those members who enjoy watching documentaries about the plight of the honey bee, here are some you may find interesting:

Netflix documentary:

Rotten: Episode 1 – Lawyers, Guns and Honey

Youtube Video

Marla Spivak – Why Bees Are Disappearing

Brett

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS

We have some great guest speakers planned to join us at our upcoming club meetings. Over the next couple of months, we will be joined by committee members of the ABA Executive. They are both a wealth of knowledge and well respected in the beekeeping community.

Sheila Stokes
President and IT Administrator

Sheila will be joining us at the next club meeting to discuss what the ABA do, and what they can do for all the affiliated clubs.

Sheila is the president of the ABA, as well as the president of Hawkesbury Beekeepers.



Bruce White
Biosecurity Officer

Bruce will be joining us at our June club meeting.

Bruce retired from the NSW DPI as Technical Specialist Apiculture after 41 years' service, 20 years of it managing the Honey Bee Quarantine Station. He is an active member of Illawarra Beekeepers and is a regular feature on the "Save Our Bees" YouTube channel for many interesting beekeeping topics.

EDUCATION AND BIOSECURITY OFFICER UPDATE

Dear fellow beekeepers,

Just a reminder that there is still time to do your autumn inspection (checking every frame in a hive), in particular the brood frames for any signs of disease. The temperatures are still pleasant and warm enough most days. Whilst you do your hive inspection don't forget to do a sugar shake to check for any mites in your hive. The club received kits for members from the ABA, so if you haven't got a sugar shake kit, get in contact with James, our apiary officer.

If you haven't done your final harvest yet, make sure you leave enough honey in the hive to keep them comfortable through winter. For a 2 brood box hive, I would leave 3 frames of capped honey or the equivalent in more frames as a minimum. Every area is different, but you don't lose the honey if you leave it in there as insurance. If the bees don't use it, you harvest it next season. Remember, most deaths of hives in Australia are caused by starvation.

Bee talk at the Rose society in Elderslie

I was contacted by the Rose society who were looking for someone from Macarthur Beekeepers Association Inc to do a talk at the Rose society meeting on the 8th of May. Since there was a lot going on that day with the field day and Bunnings Stall, I offered to go and talk for a bit about bees. The society was very welcoming and they enjoyed learning a bit more about honey bees and how to attract them to their garden. Their display of roses was wonderful and the fragrances were amazing.



AFB honey testing

Our club, together with all other clubs in NSW, was invited by the ABA to send in honey samples as they managed to strike a deal with the DPI to get a limited number of samples tested for AFB spores at no charge. We entered a total of 5 samples, 4 from members and 1 from our own apiary in Mt. Annan. So far, to my knowledge, we have received 2 results back and they were both negative.

Torsten

THE BUNNINGS STALL IS BACK!

On Saturday 8th May, Macarthur Beekeepers held their first stall at Narellan Bunnings for the year and for the first time since Covid-19!! Due to restrictions put in place over the weekend, we had to set our stall up near the cafe to ensure social distancing could easily be implemented. This made it a little slow to start with, however we made some good sales over the hours we were there.

We had a fabulous array of "Bee" products for sale: our club honey, members' honey (creamed as well), candles, lip balm, skin lotion, honeycomb and wax wraps; customers were "beedazzled" by the choices for Mothers Day!

A big thank you to our volunteers: Dallys, Ricarda, Christine, Rhonda, Deb and Rick.

Further details of future stalls are provided in the "Upcoming Community Events" section of the newsletter.

Christine



BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE**MBAi find a word**

A N P Q A W W O M F J F I N U S K L A T O C S Z
 C M O A T C O H Z I Y F W X I E Q H Z I Z J O M
 R P Z F R E T A W E K F X A W T J Z D R X Q P C
 N B H L U V W Z O M C H R U O W L D I A A A P O
 E T L Y M F K L Z U T C Y V T N X M R Z K Y B A
 M Z J E B X Z G G G N C S R E P E E K E E B Z R
 S R N V V Z Q Z M B E G Q C H M E M B E R S L Y
 Q F A T Q I A J S Q A D T Q L E U F T U G G Z L
 S G Z W I Q H S E N S A P J R P K I Y J L O Q I
 G Y P V S M S T S T R I W I M S F A Q O G D F T
 C G Y H M A W W R O G X J Z B E K X V V E V N E
 H O N E Y P B Q E I C U W S S R X E J P H R G R
 M J M T G I O U M O B I O X E K S C L E O E E N
 R M U D B A W E A E V F A K Q K G X L T K L X F
 C L G R G R S E R Z Z P O T E G Z Q C U T F O T
 X G O M W Y A N F C K M V X I H H A Y M D D S M
 U O P A G L T M T W S L X X P O R B Y Y S E P P
 D V O C U X E Q F G S E A L X T N H T P I G R Q
 N R L A M A L Y J R X C T E X B H N L O L E E I
 T R L R W B K N E H E T W E O B Y O V V O N I W
 V E E T J S F K Y N M V P H A L O E D L P H S S
 A P N H C L R Y O Q L N I L P T I Q G H O W E V
 Z U J U K O B R Y S R Q H C X L L N W Q R T A H
 Q S L R W A D P Y X D J S B E E S A G L P U U E

apiary association beekeepers bees brood drone excluder extractor frame fuel
 gloves hive honey Macarthur members nectar pollen propolis queen smoker
 super swarm veil water wax workers

Answers on the last page!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

World Bee Day is approaching and therefore we have arranged some children's craft activities for our next Narellan Bunnings stall. We will be there all weekend sharing our knowledge with a new generation of potential beekeepers!

Saturday AND Sunday- 15th and 16th May



We have also secured the following stall dates at Bunnings Narellan.

- Saturday 5th June
- Saturday 17th July

Come along and volunteer to work on the stall. A roster will be sent out to those interested.

You are welcome to sell your own honey and products as well, but ensure it is well labelled and priced in line with MBA honey sales.

Please contact Jeanette at Macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au to reserve your spot or for more information.

Jeanette



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 13th June.

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

JUNE 2021

12th - Field Day
13th - Close for Newsletter
16th - Meeting 7:30pm
20th - Newsletter out

JULY 2021

10th - Field Day
11th - Close for Newsletter
18th - Newsletter out
21st - Meeting 7:30pm

AUGUST 2021

14th - Field Day
15th - Close for Newsletter
18th - Meeting 7.30pm
22nd - Newsletter out

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



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



CLASSIFIEDS

<p>Club Shirts Contact Jessie or Michael at the next meeting With Name \$65 Without Name \$60</p>	<p>Club Honey Now available in 500gm 1 kg Tubs Contact Jessie on 0409845625</p>	<p>WANTED TO BUY Large quantities of honey on a regular basis. Call Mark on 0408 412 272</p>
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NUCLEUS HIVES FOR SALE

Available from mid September (weather permitting)

Established 5 frame colony with 2021 queen in corflute box.

Pickup \$220 each or delivery and installation into your own box offered for a small fee.

Order now

Limited number available for September

Call Torsten on 0425357643 or E-Mail engelhardt@optusnet.com.au

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.

