



# The Macarthur Beekeeper

June 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](https://facebook.com/groups/macbeekeepermembers)

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Greetings fellow Beekeepers

It is very pleasing to see the sustained attendance of people at our Field Days and Club Meetings, both the face-to-face and online component. It is an important aspect of our club and I always find it a great encouragement to see and hear our club members interacting, sharing their knowledge and experiences with each other and with those considering venturing into the exciting world of beekeeping. After all, it is the membership of our club which makes Macarthur Beekeepers the wonderful club that it is.

This month, despite a few issues with international transfer fees, I am pleased to report that we finally managed to pay for the shipping container which will be used for the secure storage of club beekeeping equipment. It is still to be transported to our Equipment Officer's property, but once onsite it will certainly assist in making the club's equipment more accessible. Thanks again to Brett, our Club Secretary, for arranging the purchase of the container through his employer. I know Anthony, our Equipment Officer, is looking forward to having everything sorted and secured.

*Continues on page 2...*

Club Membership fees are now due and existing members should have received an email with links for the renewal of fees for both the ABA and the Club. The 2021/22 membership period runs until 30 June 2022. Special thanks to Rob, our Membership Officer, for coordinating this with the ABA. I would also thoroughly recommend that members take out the optional beekeepers insurance made available through the ABA as you will not find a better or more affordable policy anywhere. If you have questions or concerns regarding membership renewal or taking out membership for the first time please contact Rob, our Membership Officer, via email at [Macarthur.Membership@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:Macarthur.Membership@beekeepers.asn.au)

It has been great to see the resumption of honey sales and a presence at some of the local Bunnings stores in our area. In addition to the honey sales, these stalls provide a terrific opportunity to raise a positive awareness of beekeeping in our community and promote the club. My sincere thanks to all members who have volunteered their time to assist in manning the stalls. If you are interested in assisting on a stall please contact Jeanette, our Marketing Officer, at [Macarthur.Marketing@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:Macarthur.Marketing@beekeepers.asn.au)

The cold weather has certainly arrived along with the rain and wind. Most of you will already have downsized your hives, reducing the number of boxes so your bees have a smaller space to keep warm during the colder months. Remember to leave sufficient food for your bees so they have enough to see them through the winter especially on those days when it is too cold, wet or windy for them to forage. Though it is unlikely you will be opening your hives for a while now, you can still keep an eye on what is going on around the hive, observing bee traffic, occasionally sliding out and checking what debris is within the bottom tray. Both provide an indication of the status of the colony. Another step you may wish to take is ensuring your hives are leaning very slightly forward to keep rain out of the hive entrance which can affect the internal humidity, making it harder for the bees to maintain temperature. Remember to properly store any frames removed from your hives. Placing them in the freezer for a couple of days will kill any wax moth or SHB larva and the frames can then be wrapped in plastic and stored, or if you have a dedicated freezer simply leave them in the freezer until they are needed in the Spring. Now is a good time to conduct maintenance on the boxes you have removed, checking the joints, repairing any splits or cracks, giving them a clean and possibly a fresh coat of paint. If you are planning on requeening them, it may be worthwhile getting your orders in early as I anticipate there will be a strong demand.

Happy Beekeeping!

Ed



## APIARY GOINGS ON

### June Field Day

Despite the chilly start to the day, the June Field Day was well attended with a good mix of members and non-members attending to conduct a workshop on beehive and frame assembly.

Several different types of hive options were available for participants to interact with.

- The typical timber hive
- The Poly Hive
- The Australian made plastic injection molded hive

Those who attended were able to try their hand at hive and frame assembly with the supplied tools and components.

While others also took the opportunity to bring their own flat packs along and gain some advice and assistance in assembly.



In addition to building boxes and frames, and always popular with our newest beekeepers, there was also the opportunity to practice lighting a smoker along with tips on how to ensure it remains lit during an inspection.



A fun and informative morning enjoyed by all who attended.

*Ed*

## EDUCATION AND BIOSECURITY UPDATE

Dear fellow beekeepers,

Around the 21st of June is the shortest daylight of the year. The egg production of the queen is at her minimum, and she only maintains a small brood nest. The number of bees in the hive is at its smallest too. Check your hives from the outside only.

- Is there traffic during the day?
- Are they bringing in any pollen?
- How does the hive smell?

Keep the hive entrance clear of grass and weeds or any other obstacles. Don't open hives for frame inspection during winter. Lift the back of the hive and check the weight - this indicates if they have enough food stores. Use the winter time to educate yourself, read some bee literature and enjoy a cuppa.

*Torsten*

## MEMBERSHIP OFFICER UPDATE

### Membership Renewal

Just another reminder that you would have received your email to renew your annual membership to the Macarthur Beekeepers Association Inc and The Amateur Beekeepers' Association of NSW Inc for the 2021/2022 year.

The new membership period is from July 1st 2021 to June 30th 2022.

As current members of the club you only pay the yearly membership fees, which are:

MBAi yearly membership fee: **\$5**

ABA yearly membership fee: **\$20**

Optional insurance (1 to 100 hives): **\$15**

Once these fees are paid the ABA will post your 2021/22 member pack, which will include your membership card, log book and AFB test kit.

All emails and packs will be sent to the addresses recorded in the membership system which will come from the Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW Inc via LoveAdmin and will have instructions on how to renew. Logging into LoveAdmin now you will be presented with your 2021/22 fees -

<https://app.loveadmin.com/Login/D2AB9E7AECE0D5B7F34524B9DF66AB3A.htm>.

If you have any questions or need assistance updating your details, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me at: [macarthur.membership@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.membership@beekeepers.asn.au)

*Rob*

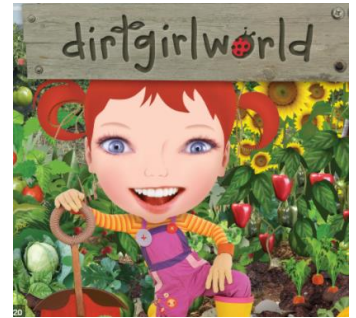
## BEE INFORMED

### Member contributions/Research articles

#### Screen time for the little beekeepers

For those of you with eager little future beekeepers, here are a couple of suggestions that introduce the little ones to the world of bees.

**Dirtgirlworld (Bees, and Pollination episode)** : This is an oldie but a goodie show for the pre-schoolers! Education on the importance of bees has started young with this show. These particular episodes cover the basics of bees and their role in a nice animated format. It is available to view on ABC iView and the ABC Kids app.



**Play School (Green Team: 4)** : Play School have introduced episodes to raise environmental issues with the littlies. This particular episode covered green buildings, renewable energy, and BEES! Spoiler alert...it was the round window! It is available to view on ABC iView.



#### Screen time for the whole family

**The Great Australian Bee Challenge** : This show is a fantastic one for the new-bees! But to be honest, I think even the more experienced might find this show entertaining. It follows four families given the challenge of looking after a hive. All are situated in different environments and it was interesting to see which ones flourished and the different struggles. The show was actually made a couple of years ago but is still available to view on ABC iView.

*Mel*

## UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKER

**Torsten Engelhardt**  
**Education and Biosecurity Officer**  
**Macarthur Beekeepers Association**

Torsten started his beekeeping endeavours back in Germany over 30 years ago. He joined the club in 2015 and looked after the apiary from 2016 to 2020. He has now moved on to Education and Biosecurity Officer and always promotes natural and gentle beekeeping.

Torsten will be joining us at our July club meeting to discuss what we should be doing in winter, and actions we may be taking now to prepare for spring.



## MEMBER PROFILES

**Member: Ben Ghardakh**

*How did you hear about Macarthur Beekeeping?*

Ben got the bees first and then researched and found Macarthur Beekeeping Association.

*What got you interested in beekeeping?*

Ben informed me that he is concerned about the rapid rate of bees dying in America due to disease and pesticides and is keen to support the colonies of bees here in Australia.

*What is your current setup?*

Ben has had his 8-frame flow hive for approximately two years and he is located at Ruse. Ben also said his girls are not photogenic



*If you could fly overseas for a holiday, where would you go and why?*

I loved Ben's reply to this one, he doesn't want to fly anywhere he said Sydney is the safest place at the moment.



Proud Ben, with a total of 6kg of honey from only 2 frames!

**Rebecca**

# BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE

## MBAi Beekeeping Quiz

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. The Biosecurity Code of Practice is dated -  | A. Combs              |
| 2. There are ___ parts to the code of practice  | B. Water              |
| 3. Each hive must be clearly and legibly marked with the beekeeper's allocated _____ in accordance with relevant legislation      | C. Legislation        |
| 4. A beekeeper must complete a minimum of ___ inspections per calendar year   | D. Three              |
| 5. When did the Code become 'mandatory'?  | E. Apiary             |
| 6. The Mandated inspections must include a minimum of ___ hive in each apiary   | F. July 1st 2020      |
| 7. Beekeeping records must be maintained for a minimum of ___ years   | G. C                  |
| 8. A hive or swarm catch box placed for the purpose of catching swarms must only contain  | H. Two                |
| 9. All hives must be maintained in a way that allows _____ to be individually and separately removed from the hive for inspection | I. Notifiable         |
| 10. Beekeepers must ensure bees under his or her care have access to _____ suitable to sustain the bees                           | J. American Foulbrood |
| 11. _____ means a group of one or more hives  | K. Antibiotic         |
| 12. _____ means infection of a hive by Paenibacillus larvae spores  | L. Registered         |
| 13. Part ___ of the Code applies to ALL Beekeepers  | M. Inspected          |
| 14. Part ___ of the Code applies to Beekeepers with 50 or more Hives  | N. Four               |
| 15. State and territory _____ takes precedence over the Code  | O. July 2016          |
| 16. Beekeepers must report _____ diseases   | P. D                  |
| 17. Beekeepers must be _____  | Q. B                  |
| 18. A beekeeper must not use any _____ for the purpose of controlling American Foulbrood in hives                                 | R. Hive ID Code       |
| 19. Hives must be regularly _____ for pests and diseases  | S. One                |
| 20. Part ___ of the Code contains best practice recommendations   | T. Foundation         |

[Answers on the last page!](#)

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

We have had a busy month with events including:

- Members honey stall 8 May Narellan Bunnings
- Children’s Bee Activities 15/16 May Narellan Bunnings thanks to Jeanette, Dallys and Caroline
- World Bee Day 20 May Narellan Bunnings thanks to Jeanette, Dallys, and Greg
- Members honey stall Saturday 5th June



Our next event at Narellan Bunnings is a member’s honey stall

**Saturday 17th July**

Volunteer and come along! It is a great opportunity to sell your honey and bee products.

Remember, honey needs to be priced and labelled in line with club protocols. Bee cosmetics are not covered by ABA or members public liability insurance.

Contact Jeanette at [macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au)

*Jeanette*







# CREATING CANOPIES - CAMPBELLTOWN HOSPITAL

Wednesday 7th July  
Wednesday 14th July  
Saturday 17th July  
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

   **CREATING CANOPIES IN GREATER SYDNEY**  
Landcare NSW has partnered with the Greater Sydney Landcare Network to deliver the planting of 100,000 trees as part of the NSW Premier's Priority of increasing tree canopy and green cover across Greater Sydney.

Join Greater Sydney Landcare Network and Landcare NSW to plant a forest of trees at Campbelltown Hospital! Stay for an hour or stay for the day!

They're creating an urban forest on the Hospital grounds for habitat, cooling and to provide a restorative environment for locals, staff and patients at the Hospital.

Green spaces aren't just great for urban ecosystems, they're also associated with better physical health, lower stress levels, and greater community satisfaction. Now's your chance to get involved with creating this healing space in your neighbourhood!

For more information:

[https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/campbelltown-hospital-tree-planting-tickets-144100397167?fbclid=IwAR0q0tcqMVEkP\\_dpURRcFA58Zs8BjxsC8lws7MVeaTwpBT6gT8tBfQKZ4-s](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/campbelltown-hospital-tree-planting-tickets-144100397167?fbclid=IwAR0q0tcqMVEkP_dpURRcFA58Zs8BjxsC8lws7MVeaTwpBT6gT8tBfQKZ4-s)

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

Please check the calendar on the MBAi website for event updates: [macarthur.beekeepers.asn.au](http://macarthur.beekeepers.asn.au)  
Deadline for submissions for our next newsletter is Sunday 11th July.

Submit articles with photos separately (not embedded in the document) or advertisement requests to Mel at: [macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto: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 number of people to attend at the MCSL

#### 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

#### SEPTEMBER 2021

**11th** - Field Day  
**12th** - Close for Newsletter  
**15th** - Meeting 7:30pm  
**19th** - Newsletter out



Bees enjoying the banksia.

Photo source: Rhonda Savva

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**



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



## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CLUB SHIRT?

We are looking to order club shirts. There are two options:

### Option 1

Existing Bisley style

Available in Sand colour in standard mens and womens sizes.

Price will depend on numbers ordered. Base price for men \$41.95 and women \$58.95.

Available in long or short sleeves



- Two pleated button down chest pockets
- Left chest pocket with pen division
- Centre back box pleat
- Two piece structured collar
- Two button adjustable sleeve cuff
- Contrast, natural coloured buttons

### Option 2

Syzmik

Available in Stone colour in standard mens and womens sizes.

Price will depend on numbers ordered. Base price for long sleeves \$50.95 and short sleeves \$45.95.



- 100gsm crinkle resistant breathable lightweight fabric
- Extra-large under arm mesh and upper back venting to maximise air flow, roll up tab sleeves
- Two chest pockets, one mobile phone chest zip pocket

### Embroidery on shirts

Price dependent on the number ordered.

Club name on left front \$9.95.

Name additional on right front \$9.95.

Orders are to be finalised by **14th July**. Payment on delivery.

Contact Jeanette at [macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au)

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Diatomaceous Earth

Now available in  
500g tubs for \$7  
Contact Ed on  
0439 303 422

### WANTED TO BUY

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

### 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](mailto:engelhardt@optusnet.com.au)

### BEE HIVE AGISTMENT

We have had Tim contact us in relation to the possibility of one of our members leaving some bee hives at his property in exchange for some of the honey produced. Property location is Orangeville and he is on 12 acres. Please contact Tim Jeffcott on 0413 010 027 for more information.

**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@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:Macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au)

### Club equipment available to Members

The following equipment is available for use by club members:

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

For use contact Ed

Via email

[macarthur.president@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto: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 7)

### MBAi Beekeeping Quiz

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| 2. There are __ parts to the code of practice N   | B. Water              |
| 3. Each hive must be clearly and legibly marked with the beekeeper's allocated _____ in accordance with relevant legislation R      | C. Legislation        |
| 4. A beekeeper must complete a minimum of ___ inspections per calendar yearH  | D. Three              |
| 5. When did the Code become 'mandatory'? F  | E. Apiary             |
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| 11. _____ means a group of one or more hives E  | K. Antibiotic         |
| 12. _____ means infection of a hive by Paenibacillus larvae spores J  | L. Registered         |
| 13. Part __ of the Code applies to ALL Beekeepers Q   | M. Inspected          |
| 14. Part __ of the Code applies to Beekeepers with 50 or more Hives G   | N. Four               |
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| 18. A beekeeper must not use any _____ for the purpose of controlling American Foulbrood in hivesK                                  | R. Hive ID Code       |
| 19. Hives must be regularly _____ for pests and diseases M  | S. One                |
| 20. Part __ of the Code contains best practice recommendations P  | T. Foundation         |