



# The Macarthur Beekeeper

July 2020

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>



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this my first newsletter update to the club as president I would like to start by once again acknowledging and thanking Caroline and Sandra for the work undertaken as President and Secretary for the past two and a-bit years. Our club certainly appreciates the effort involved and thanks them for it.

I'd also like to thank Torsten for his work in the role of Apiary Officer over the past four years. Though Torsten has 'retired' from the role of Apiary Officer, I am very pleased he has volunteered to continue supporting our club in the role of Education Officer.

My thanks to all who have put their hand up to be involved, Michael, Jessie, Caroline, Dallys, Christine and Rhonda, your preparedness to help, volunteer your time and energy, makes a positive difference. As several roles remained vacant post the AGM these became what is referred to as casual vacancies. Our constitution caters for this scenario by allowing the club committee to take steps in seeking to fill the positions. We received several expressions of interest in response to the update email I circulated to members after the AGM and I am very pleased to report that all vacancies have now been filled. My thanks to Brett Matthew for accepting the role of Secretary, Frank Maradin for stepping up as Apiary Officer, and Des Kelsey and Sujith Sasankan Leela who have volunteered to assist in the apiary. Torsten will serve in the roles of Education and Biosecurity Officer as these are nicely related. Another change is my passing on responsibility of Webmaster to Rob Weekhout who has graciously volunteered to step in allowing me to focus on the activities of club president. Again, my sincere thanks to all our volunteers.

*Continues on Page 2...*

Even if you are not able to take on the role of a club officer, there are still many ways you can get involved and help within our club, like Des and Sujith you can assist in the apiary or many other areas, so please, don't be shy, get involved.

COVID-19 has certainly impacted all of us. Our work, our travel, our entertainment. The restrictions caused the cancellation of our field days and our face-to-face club meetings. More recently we resumed club meetings including our AGM online using Google Meet. A few chuckles as people forget to mute or unmute, some interesting background video shots, but all in all it's been fun, and I'm very pleased we can at least see and hear from each other as we try to keep things moving. If you are unsure about what to do or how to join the online meetings, please let either Rob Weekhout or myself know and we will do our best to help. There is also a phone number listed in the meeting invitations to 'dial in' for those more comfortable with a phone over a tablet or computer.

I had a brief catchup with Helen Byfield-Fleming, Centre Coordinator at the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living, informing Helen of changes within the club officers, also letting her know our club meetings will continue on-line until further notice.

We are holding a special Field Day on Saturday July 18th and in line with NSW COVID-19 guidelines it will be restricted to a maximum of 20 people. By the time you read this newsletter you will know a system for re-registration was developed as approved registration will be essential for attendance to manage numbers.

Club meetings will continue online for the moment though they too will be reviewed in line with NSW and Federal Government COVID-19 guidelines on community gatherings. It is a strange new world we find ourselves in, but rest assured we will continue to do our best to ensure members are kept informed and provided every opportunity to participate in the ongoing activities of our club.

I encourage your ideas and feedback, either via email [macarthur.president@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.president@beekeepers.asn.au) or phone 0439 303 422

*Ed.*

## APIARY UPDATE

Our new ant resistant hive stands were installed at the apiary on Tuesday June 23rd.

Made from strong and sturdy, corrosion resistant stainless steel, the centre upright of each stand has a small reservoir which is filled with cooking oil.

Not only do the stands elevate the hives for easier access, the oil reservoir prevents ants from climbing up the stand and entering the hive.



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Mounted above the oil reservoir is a flat sheet intended to prevent any bees present beneath the hive vented base boards from dropping into the oil.

We will monitor the effectiveness of the stands over the coming months as there are certainly still plenty of ants in the apiary enclosure.



## CLUB OFFICER PROFILE

Over the coming months our newsletter will be publishing profiles of those currently volunteering in the different club officer roles. The idea is to introduce you to both the individual and their respective role. In sharing this we hope you will be encouraged to engage with our club officers, support them in their tasks, perhaps offer help, share your ideas, and maybe even nominate to carry on in the role next time the position becomes vacant. As this was Ed's idea, he volunteered to go first.

### Ed Napiorkowski – President



Let me say up front, I love my job! I'm currently the General Manager for Safety, Health, and Environment for Metcash. A wholesaler providing products to over 5000 independent retailers including IGA Supermarkets, Mitre10 and Home Timber Hardware stores, Campbells Cash and Carry outlets, Cellarbrations, Bottle-O, Thirsty camel and numerous other liquor outlets.

I live in Mt. Annan with my lovely wife Dallys, we are empty nesters with two adult sons, one who now lives in Vic. the other NSW. I love technology that makes life fun and admit I'm a bit of an eBay tragic regularly buying and testing new gadgets.

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I've been a member of MBA since 2015 with several hives at home plus a few on the properties of different friends who wanted bees but who are not yet ready to become beekeepers. I was the club webmaster for over a year, building and looking after our website and sharing articles and photos on our Facebook page. At the June AGM I was elected to the role of club president.

Beekeeping has become a fun pastime and through MBA I have made some great friends and I'm learning a lot along the way. In fact, it is because I owe so much to the people who make up MBA that I volunteered to get involved.

**Why stand for president?** Over the past couple of years, I visited another beekeeping club around Sydney to see what they have, what they do. I've observed some very impressive club facilities and some even more impressive programs. I've also attended several NSW ABA events where other beekeeping clubs like ours participated in the Colonel Pulling interclub competition. I was extremely impressed with the professionalism of their entries and even more impressed by the amount of club comradery each entry fostered. I was disappointed however that our club was not represented. So one thing I'd like to do is help us learn more about what is available to assist our club from the ABA and other organisations. Drawing upon external expertise and where possible additional funding. Establishing a plan for growth, attracting visitors who then want to become members, and dare I say encouraging more of our members to actively get involved. And for those members who have drifted away I'd like to entice at least some of them back as they hear about the exciting things happening.

**What's my vision for our club?** I hope to motivate our club to become a bit more proactive, a bit more engaging, a lot more interactive. I see MBA as a family friendly beekeeping club providing opportunities for people to have some fun, share their ideas and experiences, learn new skills, and gain additional insight into beekeeping. Eventually I'd also love to see a formal club house with permanent education and honey extraction facilities.

**Where to from here?** I know I cannot make things happen on my own and even with our motivated committee we still need your help and your involvement. Over the months ahead I'll be sharing some specific ideas and suggestions, but I'll also be providing you ample opportunity to tell us what you are interested in. What you would like to see, what you would like to do, what you enjoy about our club and what you don't. After all this is your club as much as it's mine and together we can make things happen..

I am genuinely excited with the opportunities that lie ahead and I hope you are too.



## MBA OFFICERS 2020

The Club's Annual General Meeting was conducted on-line, June 17th. The club thanks all who volunteer in taking up these roles as without you our club could not exist. As noted in the President's report, there were several 'casual vacancies' post the AGM and the club committee has been proactive in filling these.

### Office Bearers

President *	Ed Napiorkowski
Vice President *	Jessie Bijok
Treasurer *	Michael Clark
Secretary *	Brett Matthew

\* These roles form the Club Committee

### Club Officers

Webmaster *	Rob Weekhout
Apiary *	Frank Maradin
Education *	Torsten Engelhardt
Facebook	Ed Napiorkowski
Membership	Michael Clark
Biosecurity	Torsten Engelhardt
Library	Caroline Bowman
Editor	Christine Miller
Marketing	Jessie Bijok

## CHANGES IN BEEKEEPING REGISTRATION

### Effective as of July 1st.

Bees are amazing animals that play a critical role in global food security as well as providing income to professional beekeepers and enjoyment to hobbyists the world over. However, bees are under constant threat from a range of devastating pests and diseases, many that are not present in Australia, as well as the impacts of chemicals and pollution.

In NSW, beekeepers who own European Honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) must register with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI). If you are a beekeeper in NSW, play your part in protecting our bee populations and the role they play in pollination by registering your hives. Compulsory registration helps prevent the spread of unwanted pests and diseases including Varroa and tracheal mites.

Through registration, the DPI can contact beekeepers and locate hives that may require treatment or inspection. They also offer registered beekeepers' regular information on biosecurity and training services.

The NSW DPI endorses the [Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice](#).

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The Code of Practice is based on the principles of good biosecurity and helps Australian beekeepers to protect the industry from pests and diseases. The standards in the Code are not onerous, they are things that all beekeepers should be doing to manage their hives.

From 1 July 2020, all NSW beekeepers are required to adhere to the Code of Practice as a condition of registration.

This means from 1 July 2020, as a beekeeper there are new minimum standards you need to meet related to:

- Inspections
- Disease management and reporting
- Hive construction, branding and maintenance
- Record keeping.

To help make this possible, NSW DPI:

- Is running information sessions on the Code of Practice so that all beekeepers can quickly and easily apply the code to their everyday beekeeping.
- Has prepared template beekeeping recording forms to help with your record keeping.  
[You can download these here.](#)

Compliance with the Code will deliver long term industry benefits by way of easier movement's interstate, increased access to public lands and improved pest and disease management.

Once you have registered, you will be issued with a Certificate of Registration.

This certificate clearly outlines your conditions of registration and should be kept for future reference.

## What are the changes?

From 1 July 2020, it became compulsory for beekeepers registered in NSW to ensure their management practices meet the minimum standards outlined in sections of the [Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice](#) (the Code).

Meeting these standards will not be a big change for those beekeepers who already manage their bees in line with industry best practice but for some it may be new so a summary follows.

### Summary of changes for Beekeepers with less than 50 hives.

1	Beekeepers must be registered	<b>Existing requirement.</b> Under the <i>NSW Biosecurity Act 2015</i> , all persons who keep European honey bees ( <i>Apis mellifera</i> ) in NSW must be registered under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015. This condition is currently enforced and will continue when the Code becomes mandatory from 1 July 2020
2	Beekeepers must report notifiable diseases	<b>Existing requirement.</b> Under the <i>NSW Biosecurity Act 2015</i> , persons who suspect notifiable bee pests or diseases must report them to NSW DPI. This requirement is currently enforceable and will continue. Notifiable pests and diseases are American foulbrood, European foulbrood, chalkbrood and Nosema.

3	Hives must be regularly inspected for pests and diseases	<b>New requirement.</b> Beekeepers should already be inspecting for pests and diseases as part of their management practices. The change in this condition is that from 1 July 2020 a minimum number of inspections per year with record keeping (specified in the Code) is compulsory. Beekeepers who do not meet the requirement may expose themselves to compliance action.
4	Beekeepers must control or eradicate pests and disease and must manage weak hives	<b>Existing requirement.</b> Under the <i>NSW Biosecurity Act 2015</i> , beekeepers must manage known biosecurity risks to meet their General Biosecurity Duty. This requirement is currently enforceable.
5	Beekeepers must maintain records of biosecurity related actions and observations including hive movements, theft, sale and disposal	<b>Partially new requirement.</b> Beekeepers must already keep records of hive movements, theft, sale and disposal. New requirements in relation to this condition will be the keeping of additional records for pest disease inspection and sampling.
6	Hives must be appropriately constructed and branded	<b>Existing requirement.</b> This requirement is currently enforceable and will continue. From 1 July 2020 all hives must be branded with the beekeeper's registration number.
7	Beekeepers must not allow hives, or appliances to become exposed or neglected	<b>Existing requirement.</b> This requirement is currently enforceable and will continue.
8	Beekeepers must allow their operation to be assessed	<b>Existing requirement.</b> This requirement is currently enforceable and will continue.
Items 9 through 11 apply to beekeepers with more than 50 hives and are not displayed here. Recommendations 12 & 13 apply for all beekeepers regardless of number of hives kept.		
12	Apiary sites should be identified ( <i>Apiary means a group of one or more hives assembled in one area or location, i.e. a 'site'</i> )	This will not become an enforceable requirement. <b>This condition remains a recommendation</b> and will not be enforced. Although it is not mandatory to identify apiary sites, it is mandatory to brand all individual hives with the beekeeper's registration number as specified in condition 6.
13	Beekeepers should maintain a barrier system of hive management	This will not become an enforceable requirement. <b>This condition remains a recommendation</b> and will not be enforced.

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## Further information.

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice has been developed by the Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) in collaboration with all states and territories to provide a national minimum standard for beekeeping practices.

The changes to NSW registration conditions to include the Code are supported by all beekeeping bodies in NSW through the Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC).

A number of resources and further information is available on the NSW DPI [registration webpage](#) to assist you with meeting the new requirements.

## LIBRARY UPDATE

As the Club's new Library Officer, I am currently completing a stocktake of our books, CDs and resources.

The list of library resources which appears in the members section of our club website currently records 27 items as being 'On Loan'. There are also several titles listed in our inventory which are currently missing.

Could I request all members take time to look at what you may have borrowed from the library in the past and let me know what you have via email at: [macarthur.library@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.library@beekeepers.asn.au)

COVID-19 restrictions make it difficult to return items for the moment but if you can let me know what you have, we can get our lists up to date.

Last of all for this month, while the internet is a great source of information, wouldn't it be lovely if we had our own depository of all things bee, easy to hand?



If you have any suggestions for what literary and learning resources you would like to see accessible to members through the Library, please also send these ideas to the email address above.

Thank you.

**Caroline**



## A MEMBER'S STORY

### How another experienced club member helped her out

One of our new members, Annette and Stuart, (you've seen photos of their early journey over the last months in our newsletters) noticed their bees behaving differently and were perplexed by their behaviour. Luckily Ed Rixon, who has been a beekeeper for many years came to her rescue!

#### *Here's Annette's story.*

I had noticed for a few days that our bees were behaving differently; they were clumping together on the entry board to the Flow Hive. I thought they were hungry and so I made them a patty made from Custom Bee Feed. It was a patty made by making a syrup of sugar and water and mixing it with the bee feed.



I then rolled it out between two pieces of baking paper and laid it on top of the frames in the brood box. Their behaviour didn't really change but I could see they were enjoying the patty as there was paper in the tray of the Flow Hive.

A few weeks later I was cutting the grass with the ride-on lawn mower up against an old fence. I disturbed a swarm of bees in the grass! They were angry!

That night I went and had a better look. In the long grass was a swarm of bees. Three days later the bees were still there so I called Ed Rixon. Ed came the next day with a nuke. He had foundation in two of the frames.

He laid the two frames on the bees and slowly most of them attached themselves to the frames! Ed then slowly put the frames back into the box, put the lid on and moved the box closer to the remaining bees. Slowly they walked in! Two days later Ed came to collect the box!

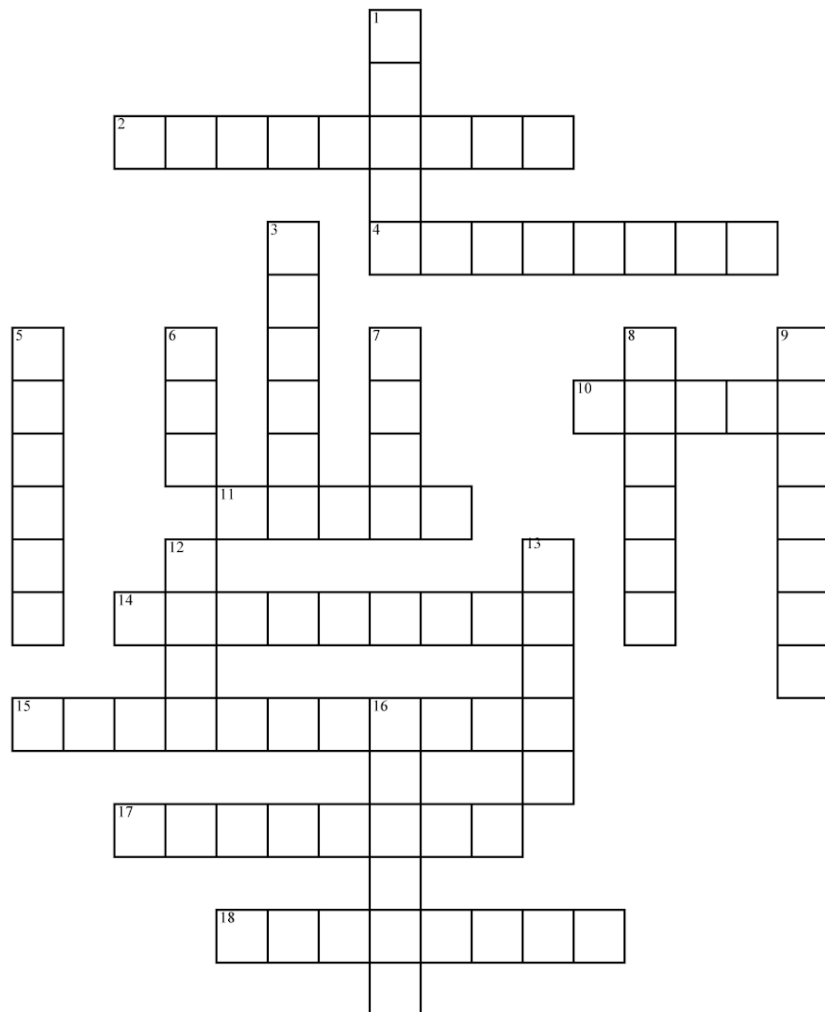
It made me wonder - was the behaviour of the bees earlier the result of this swarm being close by? Or, was the swarm from the Flow Hive?

**Annette**



# BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE

Answers on the last page!



**Across**

- 2. This type of bee makes holes in wood
- 4. Bees that do not live in a colony are \_\_\_\_\_ bees
- 10. Bees drink this
- 11. Sweet substance harvested from bee hives
- 14. A person who takes care of bees
- 15. An important function bees perform for plants
- 17. Metal device used to open hives
- 18. Bees who search for nectar and pollen

**Down**

- 1. Bees have two sets of these so they can fly
- 3. This type of bee lays eggs in another bees home
- 5. Helps keep bees calm when opening a hive
- 6. The substance used to make comb
- 7. The number of eyes a bee has
- 8. The dance bees use to communicate
- 9. Type of honey with fine smooth crystallization
- 12. A protective cover for your face
- 13. A male bee
- 16. The centre part of a bees body

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

Please check the calendar on the MBAI website for event updates: [www.macbeekeepers.asn.au](http://www.macbeekeepers.asn.au)

Deadline for submissions for our next newsletter is Sunday 9th August

Submit articles or advertisement requests to Christine at: [macarthur.editor@Beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:macarthur.editor@Beekeepers.asn.au)

### PLEASE NOTE

Dates for Field Days post the Special July 18th Field Day will be discussed at the July Club Meeting.  
Club meetings will continue to be held online via Google Meet till further notice.

AUGUST 2020	SEPTEMBER 2020	OCTOBER 2020
Field Day TBC	Field Day TBC	Field Day TBC
9th - Close for Newsletter	13th - Close for Newsletter	11th - Close for Newsletter
16th - Newsletter out	16th - Meeting 7:30pm	17th - Tocal field Day
19th - Meeting 7:30pm	20th - Newsletter out	18th - Newsletter out
		21st - Meeting 7:30pm



**Tocal Beekeepers' Field Day**

A free event at Tocal College and livestream from 9am Saturday 17th October 2020

Trade show, honey competition, honey tastings and sales  
Food and Coffee available all day  
Enquiries: email [tocal.bees@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tocal.bees@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



Department of Primary Industries



Amateur Beekeepers Association  
NSW

**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

**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](mailto: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 Michael or Jessie

Via email

[Macarthur.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:Macarthur.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au)

[Macarthur.vicepresident@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:Macarthur.vicepresident@beekeepers.asn.au)

Or phone:

Michael on 0429368353 or

Jessie on 0409845625.

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

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**



2 Queen St, Campbelltown, NSW 2560

Ph: 02 46267022

Trading Hours: 8.30am - 5.00pm



**BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE ANSWERS (PAGE 10)**

