



The Macarthur Beekeeper

November 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>

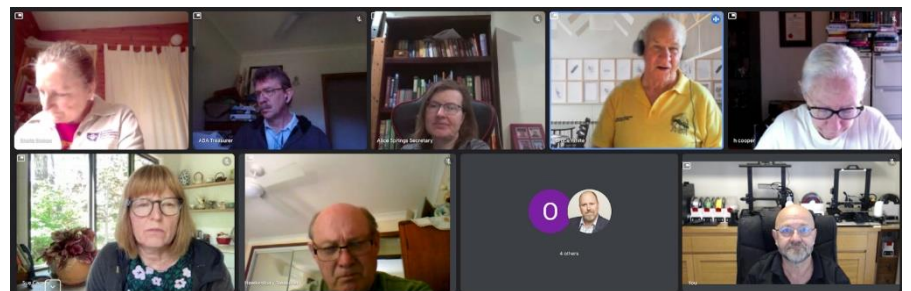
MBA Public Facebook:
<https://facebook.com/macbeekeepers>

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

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Greetings fellow Beekeepers

NSW ABA Club Forum. On Saturday October 30th, I represented our club in an online Club Forum with Executive Officers from the NSW ABA and other clubs from across the country. I say "country" rather than NSW as there are a number of clubs now affiliated with the NSW ABA which are situated outside NSW. It was a time of general discussion, an opportunity to share how things were going within our clubs and also to hear news from the ABA.



Continues on page 2...

Some of the topics which we discussed included;

- A large number of inexperienced beekeepers have been gifted or acquired hives during the past year with very little and at times even no knowledge of beekeeping, especially swarm control. There are concerns that uncontrolled swarms in residential areas may cause issues for local councils and local clubs as many clubs reported it was difficult to keep up with demand for swarm capture and in particular if swarms turned into cut-outs. There was quite a lengthy discussion on swarms, swarm catching and beekeeper training in swarm control as well as swarm capture.
- General discussion on additional resources being made available to support and educate the increasing number of Flow Hive beekeepers. Clubs were encouraged to consider what they can do to assist this initiative.
- NSW ABA are considering dropping NSW from their name and the logo as there are clubs in NT and Qld now included. NSW ABA said they were not seeking to become the Australian Amateur Beekeeping Association as there are already a number of existing associations in other states and the biosecurity rules relating to beekeeping do vary from State to State.
- NSW ABA is planning to run a Club Administration workshop as an opportunity to upskill Club Officers sometime in March.
- NSW ABA is considering developing a broader forum to allow members to post Q & As across Clubs as a means to raise awareness and share the load of responding to questions from the newer beekeepers.
- The most recent edition of the UK based BeeCraft magazine reported that Australia has abandoned the 'Sugar Shake Test' as a means of mite detection. This is incorrect. The NSW ABA and DPI have confirmed that Sugar Shake is still one of several approved testing programs. Other approved methods are the alcohol wash and drone uncapping.

Christmas Dinner. Over the past couple of month's I have been preparing for our annual Christmas dinner. Like last year our 2021 dinner was coordinated with the generous assistance of Club Sponsor's iWooHoo, Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies. I'm writing this update a week prior to the November 20th event; however, by the time the newsletter is distributed we will be including an update on the actual event!

COVID-19. The Club Executive continues to monitor things as they change regarding Covid-19. Field Days resumed in November and it is our intention to resume a combined Face to Face and Online Club Meeting format with pre-registration for the face-to-face component in time for the December 15th Club Meeting. The Field Days and the face-to-face component of Club Meetings will be limited to nominated group sizes and restricted to those who are able to verify they are fully vaccinated.

Apiary Officer. James has informed me that due to pressing personal commitments he would like to step down from the Apiary Officer position sometime in the New Year. Acknowledging this is a vital role in any beekeeping club, James is offering to buddy up with anyone interested in taking up the position next year to help them understand what is involved and also build confidence. It presents a great opportunity for an individual to provide a positive input to our great club! If you are interested in learning more, please contact James directly via email on Macarthur.Apiary@Beekeepers.asn.au.

Spring Inspection. A reminder, acknowledging that the weather has been rather variable of late, but if you are still to perform your Spring brood inspection, I encourage you to do so. If unsure of what to do,

what to look for, how to record it, I am sure any of the Club Officers will be more than willing to provide you with some tips and advice.

Happy Beekeeping!

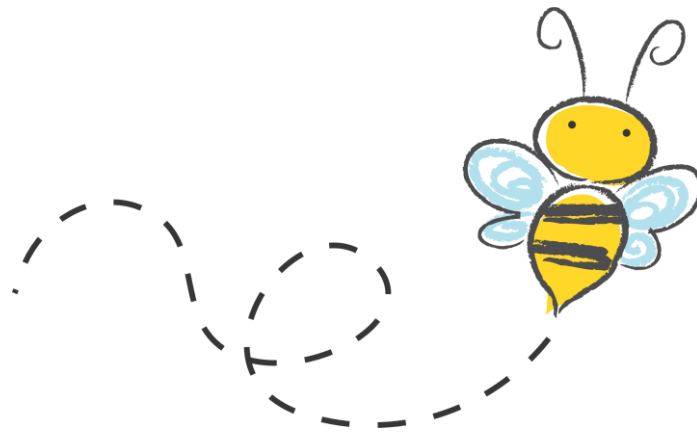
Ed Napiorkowski
President



WELCOME NEWBEES

Welcome to our latest members!

Giovanni Melosi
Wayne Mason
Sharon Dawson
Tim Longford
Robert Bautista
David Hawke
Fred Schroder
Gillian Hilt
Minh Phan
Bileam Feinauer
John Bromley
Anna Dlabaya



APIARY GOINGS ON

At the Apiary

It has been a wet spring, but with lots of sunny days the bees have been working hard, gathering, collecting and storing sweet nectar and pollen. Beehives are strong, with lots of bees and with hive beetle under control.

I want to thank our members Anne Steer & Terry Little for their help & work at the Apiary this Month.

November activities at the Apiary:

- Full Hive Inspection
- Hive Swarming Control



- Inserted new frames with embedded wax in the brood nest.
- Honey Harvest.
- SHB traps maintenance.



James Templeman
Apiary Officer

November Field Day

At the November field day, we had a great turn out despite the weather (it was our first one since June!). It had been raining leading up to the day, and was forecast to rain, but the wind turned up and kept it away. We didn't open any hives because of this.

We formed into three groups to discuss various topics. Torsten was discussing biosecurity topics, Rob was discussing how to prepare and perform inspections, and James had a group observing the bees' activity in the apiary as well as discussing everything bee related. James had also set up some different hives outside for people to look over and find out the differences between them and ask questions.

Link to information discussed can be found here: <https://bit.ly/31lyBvZ>

James Templeman
Apiary Officer

Rob Weekhout
Webmaster &
Membership Officer

Torsten Engelhardt
Education & Biosecurity
Officer

Apiary Officer Position - Vacant

As per Ed's President update, James will be stepping down as Club Apiary Officer at some point in the New Year. James has been an outstanding Apiary Officer, a wealth of knowledge and has always been generous with his time not only on field days, but also with hives on members' properties. We are very grateful for his help and continued support in the handover of this role. As Apiary Officer, the main responsibilities are the upkeep of our MBAi apiary hives, assistance on field days and, of course, a passion for educating the members of the club. If you are interested and would like more information, please email Macarthur.Apiary@Beekeepers.asn.au.

Again, I would like to thank James on behalf of the club for sharing his enthusiasm of bees with us through this role, and I have no doubt that he will be an excellent mentor and buddy to the next Apiary Officer. Thanks James!!

Mel Taraborrelli
Editor

Special thanks

There is often a lot of work going on behind the scenes to run our club. A special thanks to our Gardening Officer, Dallys, this month for working hard at the Apiary with weeding and making it look immaculate. We really appreciate it!



EDUCATION AND BIOSECURITY UPDATE

Hi everyone,

As the swarm season has eased a little bit and the weather turns out to be wet and therefore high moisture in the air, I would like to remind all our members and any other beekeeper who reads this to try to stay on top of the mighty "small hive beetle", with some examples not being that small any more. I'm using the silver bullet traps that you place between the frames on the very top of your hive (super).

The beetles like it dark and the bees chase them so the success rate is high if there are beetles around. I've seen hives where I spotted one or two beetles, but when I emptied the traps there were lots and lots. So, they are good at hiding and if you don't see one doesn't mean there is none. You'll be surprised. If you are considering oil or diatomaceous earth, I would say diatomaceous earth. Alternatively, you can use garden lime. The advantage is that powders do not go rancid like oil.

If you use Apithor, remember **not** to place it on top of the frames as the insecticide can be washed into the hive by water condensation. If you have meshed bottom boards, these traps are useless - they only trap beetles in closed bottom boards.

Happy beekeeping!

Torsten Engelhardt
Education & Biosecurity Officer



Small hive beetles in bullet trap with diatomaceous earth

MEMBER PROFILES

My name is Rebecca Rinaldo and I am the Liaison Officer for The Macarthur Beekeeper.

Just a reminder if you want to be part of the members directory, the link to this can be found on our Facebook page or you can simply email me your name, phone number and suburb at macarthur.liaison@beekeepers.asn.au.

We have had an influx of new members which is wonderful to see. I would like to introduce you to Sheridan Kent and Fred Schroder.

Member profile – Sheridan Kent

How did you hear about Macarthur Beekeeping?

I did a course with The Urban Beehive and it was recommended to me to join my local bee keeping club, so here I am :)

What got you interested in beekeeping?

I grew up in the country so I recognise the importance of agriculture and biodiversity and when I noticed a lack of bees in my yard, I wanted to make a difference.



What is your current setup?

After a lot of research, I decided on a Langstroth 8 frame hive.

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

I'd love to fly to Finland and experience a white Christmas and hopefully see the northern lights, I think it would be a magical experience.



Member profile – Fred Schroder

Very new member Fred since joining the club has registered his hive with the DPI and his bees are settling into his new hive and garden.

Rebecca Rinaldo
Liaison Officer



BEE INFORMED

Member contributions/Research articles

Hive Art

It is amazing to see some beekeepers (or partners in this particular case) decorating their hives with beautiful paintwork. They are, after all, taking pride of place in your garden. Ernie, one of our members, has been very lucky to have the hive in their garden painted by his wife with bees as representation of the kids! What a talent!!



Mel Taraborrelli
Editor

SALES AND MARKETING UPDATE

Date for your diary
We are back in business....

Bunnings Narellan Christmas Family Market
Thursday 9 December 2021

Come along and volunteer to help man the Club's Honey Tent in the car park of Bunnings Narellan, and help sell Club honey, your own honey or honey products.

Please advise of your availability to Jeanette at Macarthur.marketing@beekeepers.asn.au

A big thank you to Kelvin and the crew at Camden Valley Meats, Argyle Street Camden, who are now very kindly selling our honey. Drop in, say "Hello" and admire their great products.



Jeanette Howie
Sales & Marketing Officer

MBAI 2021 CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our Club's annual Christmas dinner this year was once again hosted by the awesome team at Fat Cafe Cafe & Wine Bar, Camden. A mix of thirty members and partners attended and were treated with an alternating set menu of:

Entree; Bruschetta - Arancini
Main; Beef Brisket - Chicken Le Morne
Desert; Panna Cotta - Chocolate Mousse
And a vegetarian option: Mushroom Risotto.



Upon arrival each attendee was issued a lucky draw number and during the night numbers were drawn, allowing attendees a pick of items from the table of bee related equipment provided with abundant generosity from Club Sponsors IWooHoo Beekeeping and Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies. The collection of donated items included beekeeper jackets, hive tools, hive base boards, frames and feeders, pollinator hotels, T-shirts, and a lot more.

The evening provided members with a great opportunity for social interaction, and a time to catch up on activities from the past months of the various restrictive stages of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. We also conducted a special Christmas raffle of a de-capping station which was won by L. Tanner. From the smiles, laughter, jokes and generous rounds of applause throughout the night it was an evening thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.




Ed Napiorkowski
President



BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE

Can you correctly match the picture to the disease/pest/biosecurity issue?
 The same disease/issue may be represented in more than one photo

OPTIONS: Small Hive Beetle (SHB), Nosema, American Foulbrood (AFB), Varroa, European Foulbrood (EFB), Wax Moth, Chalkbrood.

Photo of typical appearance / symptom	Disease?
 <p>A</p>	
 <p>B</p>	
 <p>C</p>	



D



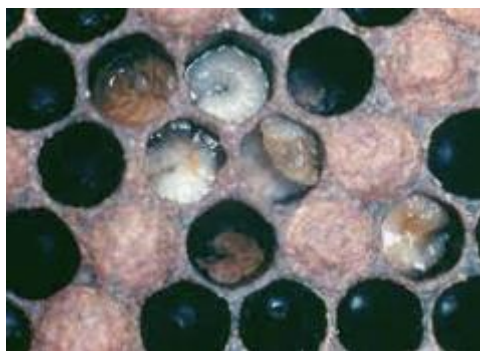
E



F



G



H



I



J



K

Answers on the last page!

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 12th December.

Submit articles with photos separately (not embedded in the document) or advertisement requests to Mel 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 number of people to attend at the MCSL

DECEMBER 2021	JANUARY 2022	FEBRUARY 2022
11th - Field Day	8th - Field Day	12th - Field Day
12th - Close for Newsletter	9th - Close for Newsletter	13th - Close for Newsletter
15th - Meeting 7.30pm	16th - Newsletter out	16th - Meeting 7.30pm
19th - Newsletter out	19th - Meeting 7.30pm	20th - Newsletter out

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions all further club meetings will be online only. Please see details below for upcoming meetings.

Wednesday, 15th December · 7:30 – 9:30pm

MBA Club Meeting Online

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/cys-zwes-xdi>

Or dial: (AU) +61 3 8594 7104 PIN: 153 432 160#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/cys-zwes-xdi?pin=9121344159981>

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



SPONSOR PRODUCTS OF THE MONTH

As part of the newsletter, we will be putting a spotlight on a product each month from our sponsors. If you have any products you would recommend, please email macarthur.editor@beekeepers.asn.au. Please note that these products are shown for informational purposes only and prices are accurate as at the time of writing. As many beekeepers will tell you, there are many products that can do the same job and much of the decision can come down to preference and budget. We strongly encourage you to speak to other club members or the store directly for more information, feedback and advice.



Ant Proof Feet RRP: \$42.00

Protect your bees - These ant proof feet stop ants in their tracks, if they are able to climb up the side of the slippery bowl, they land in the oil (previously placed by you) at the bottom of the bowl and go no further.

Pack includes 4 feet - made from 304 stainless steel and are easily assembled.

These ant proof feet can be screwed to hive stands and bases. No oil or screws included.

<https://beekeeping.iwoohoo.com.au/new-arrivals/ant-proof-feet/>



Unit 1A 1 Swaffham Rd, Minto NSW 2566
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm
Open Saturdays 9am to 1pm
Tel: 02 9731 7400



Wax melting pot 1kg with water jacket
RRP: \$22.00



Perfect stove top wax melter for hobby beekeepers.

Fill waterjacket, replace whistle and bring to boil on stove - then lower heat and place your wax in the pot. Aim for low heat and a long slow melt. Overheating wax will render it hard when in solid form. Do not boil wax.

Melted wax can be easily strained through a chux cloth or stocking material.



Small size is excellent for pouring candles. Can also be used to render chocolate. Easy cleaned by wiping with paper towel when pot is warm (not hot).

Caution: Beware of steam and hot wax. Both can cause serious burns. Do not leave on hot stove unsupervised. Do not allow children to use without adult supervision. Please handle carefully at all times.

Bees Wax is highly flammable. Use caution at all times when melting.

Material: Stainless Steel

<https://hornsby-beekeeping.com/wax-melting-pot-1-kg-with-water-jacket/>



Hornsby Store

Unit # 8 47 - 51 Jersey Street, Hornsby, NSW
2077

Monday - Friday (9 AM - 5 PM)

Saturdays (9 AM - 4 PM)

Phone: (02) 9477 5569

Mt Druitt Store

Unit 11, 71 Kurrajong Avenue, Mt. Druitt, NSW
2770

Monday - Friday: 10 AM - 6 PM

Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM

Phone: (02) 9625 5424

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



HIVES AND NUCS FOR SALE

5 frame nucleus hive with 2021 mated and marked queen
(limited numbers in stock) - \$220

8 frame established hive with 2021 mated and marked queen
(2 available) - \$300

Please call or text Torsten on 0425 357 643 for availability and
to arrange pickup

I offer installation in your hives on site too for an additional
small fee.



BOOK YOUR NUCS

5 frames of strong and healthy bees with a new mated Italian queen (very calm bees).

Price: \$250 – Local pickup in Campbelltown

MBAi members get \$10% discount

For any further details & orders (delivery &/installation)

Call James Templeman Ph: 0466 823 635

We are COVID SAFE

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

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 Anthony

Via phone or text:

0412 577 828

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

BEEKEEPER'S PUZZLE ANSWERS (PAGE 9)

Correct Answers:

- A Nosema
- B Small Hive Beetle (SHB)
- C Varroa
- D American Foulbrood (AFB)
- E Wax Moth
- F American Foulbrood (AFB)
- G Wax Moth
- H European Foulbrood
- I ChalkBrood
- J Small Hive Beetle (SHB)
- K Wax Moth