



**Amateur  
Beekeepers  
Association**  
NSW MID NORTH COAST

# The Bee Line

**Newsletter of the Mid North Coast Amateur  
Beekeeping Association**

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**June 2022 Newsletter**

## **MNCABA President's Report**

The June meeting was held at the Coffs Botanic Garden. Being the long weekend, we had a slightly reduced but enthusiastic attendance.

The theme of the meeting was 'Aggressive Hives'. We conducted an open forum which was led by Don and myself. It was very informative and the questions and discussions grew to cover a host of other areas.

### **Next Meeting**

**Date:** Sunday 10 July 2022

**Time:** 10 for 10.30am

**Host:** Monica

**Address:** 8 Melaleuca Place  
Urunga

**Contacts:** Monica 0419 298 586  
Allan 0428 712 587



It was suggested that the Club investigate seed/plant packs of bee friendly plants. This will be part of the theme for our next meeting which will be in Urunga at Monica's place. Feel free to bring along seeds and cuttings to swap and share as well as your top tips for attracting bees to your garden.

Alison and Merridy have returned from the Congress. Some interesting material has already been posted on our Facebook page. We can quiz them at length at the next meeting! Thank you ladies for representing us.

Seems to be a lot of Covid and flu about! Stay safe everyone.

Regards,

Allan



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**4th Australian BEE CONGRESS, 8-11 June 2022**

## *Celebrating Honey Bees - at the heart of a healthy Australia*

The conference was held at Rosehill Gardens, a lovely venue with two lecture theatres and the large open downstairs area was used for the Trade Show.

The event celebrated 200 years since the successful introduction of the Honey Bee to Australia in 1822.

There were over 600 delegates from around Australia and New Zealand - ranging from recreational beekeepers, commercial beekeepers, academics and everything in between!

Who would have known there are more than 12 University students doing their PHDs on Bee related topics! The one I found most interesting related to the use of Australian jarrah honey being used to inhibit and kill the fungi that causes tinea and ringworm.

Or another bundle who were developing new beekeeping technologies, such as a system that monitors the temperature of the hive and the development of B-Check, a sensor for American Foulbrood. The design patent is currently being formalised and is set to be delivered in 2023 by a WA company.

The When Bee Foundation presented their Planting guides (I have about 20 copies of the North Coast guide to distribute) and there are currently \$1,000 grants for tree planting on offer.

Another presentation I found very interesting was Sweet Justice by Claire Moore. This is a training organisation/charity that presents a 10 week beekeeping course within the Youth Justice system (10-18 years) and more recently in adult prisons in Victoria. The most suitable of the participants are offered employment on release to work for 12 months and train on the job.

Dr Kathy Knox gave a presentation on Training Beekeepers and a lot of ABA Clubs (57%) have their own training apiaries, which are on private or public land. An overview of the ABA was also given. Founded in 1954 and with members in NSW, Qld and NT, there are currently 33 Clubs. There are 669,000 bee hives in Australia and 29,800 beekeepers. Of these 1,800 are commercial and 28,000 are recreational.

James Watts, a Qld researcher, Whale Labs Pty Ltd, gave a fascinating presentation. James first became involved with the Beekeeping industry in 2016 looking into small polypeptides for dementia. He has been developing tools to help beekeepers expand their revenue streams, including bee venom collecting and processing.

The major sponsor of the Congress was Nuplas Apiarist Supplies, food grade plastic beehives & apiary products. There were also about 55 other trade exhibitors with interesting displays & products for sale.

Other interesting displays on offer:

# A historical display

# The Honey Show competition

# An Art & Craft competition with a Bee theme

An interesting and informative (and exhausting) 3 days!

*Merridy Huxley*



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*A selection of photos by Alison*



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## CLUB SUPPLIES

### Foundation and Apithor

Don Wood has our Club's supplies of Wax Foundation and Apithor SHB traps. Please contact him on pH: 0418 112 516 or by email: [rabbitrap2873@yahoo.com](mailto:rabbitrap2873@yahoo.com)

The price of foundation is \$2.60 per sheet. Apithor small hive beetle traps are \$6.50.

Don is also the guardian of our two hive extractors that are available for loan to club members.

## FRANK'S HIVE HINTS No 16

Bees sometimes do things beyond human imagination. It doesn't matter how much knowledge you have. It can happen any time of the year. You open the hive where everything looks normal. It is well populated with the queen laying normally. The brood looks normal. Before you finish examining the combs you find one comb with a couple of occupied queen cells with queens ready to emerge. They are not swarm cells that usually appear on frame edges. What is the reason? The bees know something better than you. They want to replace the queen though all seems normal. Why? They know that the queen will stop laying, she is too old, sick or injured. If you destroy the queen cells they will build new ones straight away. If that happens, leave them alone for a couple of weeks and let Nature take its course. Check again. You may be surprised to find two queens laying in the same box, mother and daughter side by side. Eventually, in a couple of weeks the old queen will disappear.

*LOVE THOSE BEES!*

## NEXT MEETING

Date Sunday 10 July

Time 10 for 10.30am

Host Monica

Location 8 Melaleuca Place  
Urunga

Cost \$5

Raffle Donations for the door prize table warmly welcomed.

BYO Chair, food, drinks, hat, bee protection gear, any **outstanding library books**

Contacts Monica 0419 298 586  
Allan 0428 712 587