



**Amateur  
Beekeepers  
Association**  
NSW MID NORTH COAST

# The Bee Line

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

Join us on Facebook at [http://www.facebook.com/Mid-North-Coast-Amateur\\_Beekeepers-Association-Inc-333496536672637](http://www.facebook.com/Mid-North-Coast-Amateur_Beekeepers-Association-Inc-333496536672637)

## March 2022 Newsletter

### MNCABA President's Report

This month's Amateur Beekeepers' Meeting was held at the Christian Community School at Bonville. Thank you, Paul, for organising this for us. It was the first meeting since December because of the fear of Covid 19. There was a good roll up of enthusiastic members. We also welcomed a few first-time visitors.

After the usual important reports from the Treasurer, Merridy and Secretary, Monica, John Carrol spoke on some current issues relating to the beekeeping industry. I then conducted a presentation on small hive beetles. These beetles have been adversely impacting many hives on the coast this year, due to the warm, moist conditions. The beetles were accidentally introduced to Australia approximately 20 years ago, possibly on cargo from overseas. They fly to hives, mostly morning and dusk. Upon entering, they lay eggs which proceed to hatch into 'maggot' like larvae. The larvae burrow through the honeycomb, eating pollen, honey, bee larvae and eggs but that is not all. They defecate and carry a yeast which can send the hive putrid. Once fully fed, the beetle larvae exit the hive and pupate in the soil. In due course, they hatch and fly to find hives and so the cycle continues. Conditions become so foul for the bees, that they abscond, leaving a smelly, slimy mess. Remaining honey is too spoiled to use. There was good discussion about actions that beekeepers could use to manage their hives to assist in avoiding a catastrophic loss.

The school had two flow hives nearby and a small window of satisfactory weather allowed John Carrol, the club's Biosecurity Officer and Don Wood to lead hive inspections. They pointed out subtle intricacies of the hives that could be managed to make them stronger and more productive. This often means looking for signs of an inferior or failing queen, the nutritional status of the hive and of course signs of any diseases or pests.

The meeting ended with a 'lucky draw'. Prizes consisted of donations from members topped with extra items purchased by the club.

The next meeting will be on Sunday 10th April and will be hosted by Matt Connell, Bonville, if it is not too wet under foot. Watch for a backup plan if this occurs. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for Matt's details).

Regards,

Allan

#### Next Meeting

**Date:** Sunday 10 April 2022  
**Time:** 10 for 10.30am  
**Host:** Matt Connell  
**Address:** 142 East Bonville Road  
BONVILLE  
**Contact:** Matt 6653 4375  
Allan 0428 712 587

President:	Allan Thomas 0428 712 587, <a href="mailto:midnorthcoast.president@beekeepers.asn.au">midnorthcoast.president@beekeepers.asn.au</a>	Biosecurity Officer:	John Carroll
Secretary:	Monica Rich 0419 298 586, <a href="mailto:midnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au">midnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au</a>	Social Media Officers:	Monica Rich & Alison Beswick
Treasurer:	Merridy Huxley 0421 690 403, <a href="mailto:midnorthcoast.membership@beekeepers.asn.au">midnorthcoast.membership@beekeepers.asn.au</a>	Librarian:	Carina Kerr
Vice Presidents:	Matt Connell & Don Wood	Ass.Librarian:	Elsbeth Haenggi
Membership Officer:	Merridy Huxley	First Aid Officer:	Paul M
Public Officer:	Matt Connell & Don Wood		
Supply Officer:	Don Wood 0418 112 516		
Newsletter Editor:	Alison Beswick <a href="mailto:midnorthcoast.editor@beekeepers.asn.au">midnorthcoast.editor@beekeepers.asn.au</a>		



# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Mid North Coast Amateur  
Beekeeping Association

Photographs from the March meeting at Bonville //  
Thanks to Paul and Monica for the photos



*Why do bees hum?*

*Because they can't remember the words!*



# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Mid North Coast Amateur  
Beekeeping Association

## **FRANK'S HIVE HINTS // No 14**

What does a good beekeeper do? That is a question many new beekeepers ask.

1. Use only standard equipment. Full depth Langstroth hives with 8 or 10 frames are normal. Supers and frames of the same size can be interchanged.
2. Be considerate of neighbours. Site hives so that the bees' flight path does not cross a neighbour's yard, a path, playground or other public area. If necessary, construct or grow a barrier. Bees need to collect water. Provide some on site so your bees don't visit swimming pools.
3. Requeen. This is one of the best things you can do. Young queens maximise brood production and suppress swarming. Queens can be bought or raised. They must be from good, healthy stock.
4. Control disease and pests. Learn to recognise the basic problems and learn how to deal with them by borrowing books or DVDs and attending field days.
5. Super colonies according to their needs. Assess the population. If bees are covering all combs and spilling out of the hive, they need a super or at least replace full honey combs with empty ones. Assess the amount of stored honey. If the 1st super is 2/3 full, place one with empty combs under it. Assess future prospects for foraging. If the outlook is poor a super would not be needed. Swarming tendencies can be lessened by giving bees more space.
6. It is a legal requirement that beekeepers be registered with Dept of Primary Industries (NSW). The 2 year fee is small. Fines apply.

LOVE THOSE BEES.

*From the archive of Frank's Hive Hints by the late Frank Karabaic*

## **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: [rabbittrap2873@yahoo.com](mailto:rabbittrap2873@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.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Date: Sunday 12 April

Time: 10 for 10.30am

Location: Matt Connell  
142 East Bonville, BONVILLE, NSW

Hosts: Matt Connell

Cost: \$5

Raffle: Donations for the raffle table warmly welcomed.

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

Contacts: Matt 6653 4375  
Allan 0428 712 587

