



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW MID NORTH COAST

The Bee Line

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

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May 2022 Newsletter

MNCABA President's Report

Hello everyone,

Many thanks to Matt Connell for filling in for me at the meeting. Also, special thanks to Andrea and Clive for hosting the meeting. From all reports, it was a great day out. Thanks to all who contributed.

Matt discussed packing hives down for winter. Don't forget if you help the bees by feeding sugar, ensure that it is consumed by the bees or removed before you harvest next season, especially if you are selling the honey.

Issues that were mentioned during the meeting included the upcoming Coffs Show (now gone I think), Bellingen Show, Bunnings "Bee Day" display and Cane Toads.

Alison and Merridy have volunteered to represent our club at the Bee Congress in Sydney. The Club will pay their registration fees. They will provide feedback to us. Thank you ladies.

The next meeting will be on the 12th June at the North West Botanic Garden. Please contact one of the executive if you would be happy to host us in the future.

Regards,

Allan

Next Meeting

Date: 12 June 2022
Time: 10 for 10.30am
Venue: Botanic Garden
Address: 38 Hardacre Street,
Coffs Harbour
Contact: Al Thomas 0428 712 587

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Membership Officer: Merridy Huxley
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Biosecurity Officer: John Carroll
Social Media Officers: Monica Rich & Alison Beswick
Librarian: Carina Kerr
Ass.Librarian: Elsbeth Haenggi
First Aid Officer: Paul McLeod



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Highlights of the May Club meeting included Judith's informative talk on dealing with cane toads and the inspection where Matt and Don talked about the wintering of hives. The hive inspection included tips about feeling the temperature of the comb with your hand and how to reduce a triple to a double when wintering by the coast.





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Bellingen Show 21-22 May, 2022

An eagerly awaited community event, the Bellingen Show, only lasted one day due to the incredibly wet conditions. It was definitely a gumboot & umbrella sort of day.



Despite the weather, the Club had a great display in the newly created Artisan's Marquee. The response to our display was very positive & we had plenty of interested people stop and chat and ask advice as well as purchase honey, wax and wax wraps.

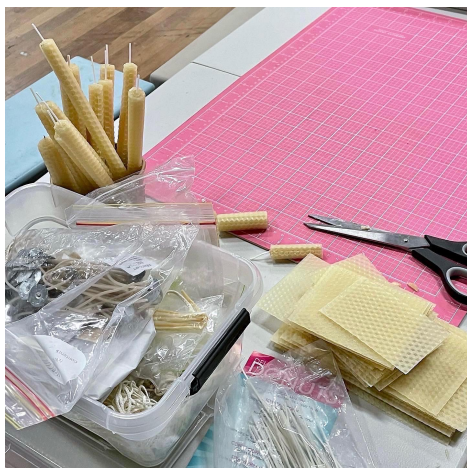
On Saturday I was ably assisted by Don Wood & Wendy Black. On Sunday both Don & Wendy were returning to help & we were to be joined by Zoe Beatty & Geoff Moule but the Sunday display was not to be. And a big thank you to Warren Huxley..... for helping me to keep all the juggling balls in the air!

The Bellingen Show was a great way to promote the Club, educate the general public about the honey bee and be part of a community event. It was a lot of fun and we have been asked to return next year! Oh and Don Wood also entered honey in the Show & was awarded a 2nd place in the light honey class.

Merridy Huxley

Coffs Harbour Show 13-15 May

This year the Club shared a corner of the Exhibition Hall with Coffs Beekeeping Supplies and the Coffs Harbour Branch of the Australian Native Bee Association. Judith was approached by the Show Society to put together a stand to celebrate all things honey and bees, and she then approached the local clubs to share the vision. Thanks to Paul, Warren, Alison and Serge for spending time at the very popular candle rolling table and engaging the public in discussion about bees. Thanks to Judith for her great candle making activity and for supplying all the equipment to make them.





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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 2 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 12 June

Time: 10 for 10.30am

Venue: North Coast Regional Botanic Garden

Location: 38 Hardacre, Coffs Harbour

Cost: \$5

Raffle: Donations for the raffle table warmly welcomed.

BYO: Chair, food, drinks, hat, bee protection gear, any **outstanding library books**, and masks are always advisable to have on hand when appropriate social distancing isn't possible.