

The official newsletter of the Far North Coast Beekeepers Inc. Est 2020

Website: www.beekeepers.asn.au/far-north-coast

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/farnorthcoastbeekeepers>

Sept 2022

Dates and Activities

Far North Coast Beekeepers Club Workshop

When: **11th September 2022**

Time: **9.00am to 11.30am.**

Where: Merve and Shirley McDonald's **536 Wardell Rd Dalwood** (just out of Alstonville)

Please bring your clean veil and protective gear for viewing the apiary, all other bee gear will be provided, your own chair and clean cup and something to share for morning tea. Shade and tea and coffee will be available.

The current Varroa mite DPI bee movement restrictions mean that queen and nucleus breeders will not be able to trade this season and therefore you may need to replace some of your queens with ones you produce yourself. The morning will include an explanation and demonstration of how to achieve this and also:

- Splitting a hive (to make two hives)
- Identifying Queen cells and swarm cells
- Reducing the risk of swarming
- Methods to produce a new queen

The discussions and demonstrations will be led by Merve McDonald, Steve Fowler and Robert Stone

I look forward to meeting up with you on the day.....

Chris Shands



Presidents Report by Chris Shands

It is great to be able to report that the weather has been a lot kinder on our bees over the last couple of months. The same can't be said for the Varroa destructor incursion and many of our fellow beekeepers have been seriously affected, especially those in the red zone who are having their hives euthanised in the Hunter and Central Coast regions.

The club activities have included a workshop at the McKees Hill Hall where participants assembled bee boxes and made up sugar shake slides and registration number stencils.

Our August day at Lennox Head was hosted by Dave and Tat Stone and participants saw two excellent demonstrations on lighting the smoker and checking the brood box and a sugar shake demonstration. By the way, if you haven't checked out the Far North Coast Beekeepers Facebook page and viewed the videos of the day's activities please feel free.

All the best with your spring bee keeping activities.

Chris

Training And Careers Showcase Day

The Agrifood Industry Training Advisory Board, in partnership with NSW Apiarist Association and Mountain Blue are hosting a free showcase day on 7 September at Tabulum. The event is aimed at females interested in a career in non-traditional areas like beekeeping, pollination and production horticulture. More information is available at

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/horticulture-and-beekeeping-mae-showcase-day-tickets-375665986077?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>



More on Varroa Destructor Mite



Keep up to date with the latest information from NSW DPI

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/biosecurity/current-situation/varroa-mite-emergency-response>

Make sure that the location of your hives is registered with DPI.

If you have not already done so, you are encouraged to perform a sugar shake test on your hives and report any positive results immediately to DPI.

More information on Varroa is included in the August/September edition of The Amateur Beekeeper newsletter.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55c74594e4b03257969fb17a/t/6304e7cfece702cfe d3110a/1661265902092/AmBeeAugSeptem22.pdf>

All beekeepers should try to minimise swarming to reduce the risk of Varroa mite spreading. The Amateur Beekeeper newsletter also contains information on preventing swarms and we'll discuss this at our September meeting.

Recipe – Honey Peanut Energy Balls

1 cup quick oats

½ cup crunchy natural peanut butter

1 tsp vanilla extract

½ cup almond meal

1/3 cup raw honey

½ cup choc bits or chopped dates



Mix all the ingredients together.

Roll into bite sized balls (use wet hands) – makes about 24 ball

Roll in dessicated coconut

Store in airtight container in the fridge



Hosting a Field Day

We would love to visit your yard and/or apiary for one of our field days. Please get in touch with the secretary Brad Lane to discuss details and dates.

Contributions to the newsletter

We would welcome any contribution you would like to make to the newsletter.

If you are a new beekeeper you could tell us about your early experiences with bees or if more experienced you could pass on tips and techniques on how to care for your bees. If you have any good recipes using honey we would be happy to include them.

Relevant photographs are also welcome and we will try to include some in each newsletter.

Far North Coast Beekeepers Inc Committee

President	Chris Shands	0431 344 194	farnorthcoast.president@beekeepers.asn.au
Vice President and	Hans Neumann	0410 532 956	hans@popcake.com
Treasurer			
Secretary	Brad Lane	0403 086 881	farnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au
Training	Stephen Fowler	0418 412 621	fowlerstephen@y7mail.com
Biosecurity Officer	Robert Stone	0432 277 317	red.stonee68@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Robert Butler	0414 667 036	aquaticcustoms@hotmail.com
First Aid Officer	Tanya Rumpf	0487 598 105	tanyar438@gmail.com
Newsletter	Ian Lacey	0410 684 150	farnorthcoast.editor@beekeepers.asn.au

Disclaimer The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the FNC Beekeepers Inc. FNC Beekeepers Inc accepts no liability for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided.