



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW MID NORTH COAST

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Mid North Coast Amateur Beekeeping Association

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April 2019 Newsletter

President's Report - 14/4/2019

Thank you once again to Kerry and Garry Shearer for hosting a meeting.

As the weather was overcast, a little on the cool side and threatening rain, we did not open hives.

Some of the meeting time was spent discussing the Colonel Pulling Competition which is being held in conjunction with the ABA Conference at University of Western Sydney, (Hawkesbury).

There really is something for everyone, there being 17 different categories in the comp. (More details elsewhere in this newsletter). Have you got some nice honey or wax? Can you make wax wraps? Are you a budding photographer? Have you invented something? These are just some of the areas in the competition.

I encourage you all to have a look and see what you can enter/do on behalf of the Club.

I have offered to take entries down, but would also like company/help. The Club has sufficient funds to assist in defraying costs. Please let me know if you can do this with me.

Entries would have to be brought to the next meeting which is at Merridy's and Warren's. (I should mention at this point, that Merridy and Warren will have paying guests staying at their "Bus Stop". Please be mindful not to intrude or linger. Thanks).

Alan Griffin has kindly donated a number of beekeeping items which were auctioned on behalf of the Club. See elsewhere for the results. A hive, surplus to Club's requirements was also auctioned. A lot of fun, but I don't think Mal or I will give up our day jobs just yet to become Auctioneers.

After lunch, Anika Miller, who represents a Blueberry Cooperative spoke about the importance of bees in regard to pollination. She is endeavouring to link beekeepers with blueberry growers. Basically, there would be a contract with remuneration for service. There was a lot of discussion and questions, which Anika handled very well. Make contact with Anika if you would like to follow up.

Anika Miller Cooper
Field Officer, Oz Group Co-op Ltd
PO Box 106, Woolgoolga NSW 2456
Ph: 02 6654 7119 or Mobile: 0499908454

Next Meeting

Date: 12th May
Time: 10 am for 10:30 start
Address: 503 Roses Rd
Gleniffer NSW 2454
Phone: Merridy - 0421 690 403
Warren - 0413 497 356

President:	Allan Thomas Ph: 0428 712 587, email: beekeepingworkshops@gmail.com	
Secretary	Michael Worraker Ph: 0408 293 031, email: midnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au	
Treasurer/Membership Officer:	Mal Banks Ph: 6649 0990, email: mjbanks1@bigpond.com	
Public Officer:	Phil Jury Ph: 6568 5655	Newsletter Editor: Mal Banks
Vice Presidents:	Don Wood, Merridy Huxley	Facebook Page Moderator: Glen Locke
Publicity Officer:	Wendy Black	Technical Advisor: Dasha Miller
Librarian:	Suzanne Moore Ph: 0428 794 117	Ass. Librarian: Elsbeth Haenggi
Ass. Secretary:	Merridy Huxley	



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Toni Child (yes, the singer), has met with beekeepers in our region over breakfast at the various locations from Grafton to Port Macquarie. She is passionate about saving the pollinators of the world, a good cause. She is having a concert the evening before.

Log Books. Mal still has quite a few to be collected. If yours is not there, contact the Secretary at ABA. You will now have to pay \$5 and have it mailed directly to you.

Come along to the next meeting to pick up your book, if you have ordered one, and your membership card.

Regards

Allan
President



Anika Miller giving a talk about blueberry pollination

Meeting Report

The meeting was called to order at 10:44 am by President Al. Minutes of the last meeting were tabled and apologies were read. The treasurer's report for March was made available for perusal, with the balance at 31st March being - \$3,488.42.

Members were made aware that it's "Sugar Shake" month and our remaining shakers were handed out to members.

Flowering plants:- Duranta, tea tree (Camelia sinensis), Grevillea, Rosemary, cuphea, magnolia, native hibiscus, melaleuca, salvia, Marraya, abelia, hebe salicifolia, perennial basil, citrus

Asher Solomon gave a talk on the Toni Child's breakfast and her larger plans.

Thanks to Alan Griffin who donated some bee equipment to the club. An Auction was had and items included:- smokers, and extractor, wax foundation, gloves, hive tool, brush and more. Thanks to Faye and Frank for receiving, cleaning and bringing the gear to the meeting. Congratulations to all the winners and to Naomi for buying the club hive box. If anybody knows Alan, can they please thank him as I have lost his contact details.

Don Wood gave a talk about closing hives down for winter.

General Business

The next meeting is the last before the Colonel pulling comp in June, so at the next meeting we will be judging all the entries.

So get your honey, wax and everything else ready and bring it for judging. See below.

Allan has stated his intention to attend the conference at Hawkesbury, but he would definitely like some company and a hand with the proceedings and the trivia competition. Our club will subsidise the cost of 2 members' travel and accommodation expenses.

We also need some good ideas to take a good club photo.

So here I repeat the changes that have been made to the format.



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Col. Pulling Changes

There are now four honey categories (very light added) and fifteen non-honey categories. Each club will be judged on the four honeys and three of the non-honey categories. The standard now is that of the RAS, meaning honey must be submitted as 3 x 500g jars for each.

- ◇ Non Honey Classes :- Natural granulated honey, creamed honey, chunk honey, frame of comb honey, beeswax block, moulded candles, dipped candles, pollen clean & dried, sweet mead, dry mead, beeswax wraps.
- ◇ Club report will be an online form.
- ◇ Club project or initiative developed in the last 12 months
- ◇ Club quiz- each club must submit 5 questions (multiple choice) with answers. 20 questions will be selected and used in the contest in June.
- ◇ Photography topic - "This is us." Images will be judged on originality and how clearly they depict the character of each club. Images should feature some or all members in an apiary or specific local surroundings. Please take some time to set up the photo. It should reflect the energy and personality of your particular club. It can be a 'class photo' or any other formal or informal setup that you choose.

ABA Individual Awards - These will be judged at the conference in June.

1. Beekeeping Invention of The Year - Have you devised a gadget or device that makes beekeeping life easier? We'd love to hear about it. Entry by competition entry form, including images and description. Finalists will be given a free ticket to attend the conference gala dinner and may be asked to explain or demonstrate their invention during the evening.
2. Art or Craft Project Celebrating Bees - Calling all creatives. This is your chance to gain statewide fame and show off your artistic skills. This is a wide open category - you can submit an original work in any medium: for example woodwork, print, fabric, paint, dance . . . even cake.. Item judged on: skill, originality, visual impact, fit for purpose. Judging panel and a members' choice award. Items will be displayed at the conference and winners will be announced at the gala dinner.
3. Beekeeper Selfie - Here we're looking for the best image of an ABA member with their bees. Send us selfie (portrait looking at camera) of yourself in beekeeping setting and tell us in up to 200 words about your adventures with bees, where you live and which club you belong to. We will feature the best images during the dinner and in the journal during the year. All featured beekeepers will receive a prize .
4. Best Honey Label and Packaging - Submit up to three honey products in any type and combination of packaging fit for sale. Remember: this category isn't about what's inside the jar or box. It's about how you have presented or marketed it to make it attractive to potential customers or recipients. Entries will be judged on design, compliance to regulations, execution and copywriting. Separate expert panel and members' choice awards.

Plenty there to think about, and we need to get busy!

Club News

Michael Worraker has offered to fill the secretarial gap, so congratulations Michael. You will have plenty of help!

Many thanks to Merridy for offering to step in as acting secretary.



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Foundation and Apithor

Michael Worraker has our clubs supplies of Wax Foundation and Apithor SHB traps. Please contact him on 0408 293 031 or by email. It makes sense that he has the club membership badges and log books, so this will happen after the next meeting.

Excess Honey?

Contact Matt Connell - 6657 4174

Our drum is nearly full. Vendor declaration forms have been sent to all those who have given honey.

Please remember that our honey must meet certain standards and must be free from contaminants. Apithor are the only registered chemical SHB trap and they must be used correctly. Any possible contaminants in our honey make it unsaleable as it is tested. Our farm produced natural honey should be of the highest standard.

Fees

As you're most likely aware Membership fees for 2019 are now due. The fee is \$40 and with insurance at \$20, many members are taking up the insurance. Cheap buy for peace of mind. For new members that payment is now \$30.00, as a quarter of the year has passed.

If you are having trouble with your payment please give me a call on 6649 0990 or contact Sheila Stokes by email web@beekeepers.asn.au.

Library

Please return library books ASAP after borrowing. It is difficult for the Librarian to have to track down unreturned items.

Breakfast With Toni Childs

I hope everybody enjoyed their breakfast with Toni Childs. She is certainly passionate about pollination and chemicals being used in agriculture and is aiming to act as a voice to bring about change. She and her family have suffered from environmental toxicity, so she has a personal interest.

Next year she is planning on doing a world tour of her show with 'Pollinators' as the theme.

There is a very well constructed survey form that



Toni with some MNC members at Grafton

members and others can fill out on her website. ToniChilds.com

I will have the hard copy at the next meeting for members to look at.

Toni is also writing a book about her experiences with beekeepers with pictures of same.



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For Sale

Rod Dowsett has some Hive boxes for sale.

DOWSETT IN HONEY

CLEARANCE SALE fully assembled and painted broodbox and super box, 20 full depth super frames, wax foundation sheets, lids, bottom boards, queen excluder and entrance gate \$295 each beat the spring rush ORDERS WELCOME



Frank's Hive Hint No. 13

Moody Bees

Sometimes the bees in a hive can change their mood from day to day or even hour to hour. A normally quiet hive can become quite aggressive. There can be many reasons for this.

If your bees are near a cornfield they may obtain an abundant amount of pollen which is not very nutritious. They can collect so much that the combs can be filled within a week at the expense of brood. When pollen production ceases during the morning bees can become cranky. This can happen with other pollen sources too.

Citrus honey is very special and bees are attracted to the blossoms. During the day when the flowers dry out and the nectar flow stops bees can become aggressive – even hives that are usually quiet. This happens often.

Robber bees can cause stress to hives. They may come around when you open a hive at a time when there is little nectar.

The beekeeper can aggravate the bees. Watch your movements – slow and calm. Don't breathe heavily on the combs. Bees don't like the smell/fumes from petrol, perfume, scented soap, aftershave or fertiliser.

Listen to the sounds bees make in the hive. They can indicate a mood. There are different sounds for contentment, swarm preparation and stress. Don't try to work with bees that are aggravated.

Acoustic devices are being used by researchers to listen to bait hives near major ports for signs of stress caused by Varroa mites. Be a good listener.

LOVE THOSE BEES.

Bees In The News

1. Amateur beekeepers buzzing over new venom harvesting revenue stream

Bee venom harvesting has amateur apiarists buzzing over a new revenue stream that does not damage their colonies.

Key points:

- ◇ A battery-powered collector is placed outside the hive and uses a small pulsation that bees won't detect.
- ◇ The bees sting a glass plate, which collects the venom and does not hurt the bee.
- ◇ Harvesting bee venom is not new and the inventor says his model is a variation on existing products.



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Brisbane inventor James Watts said his venom collector was more bee-friendly than other harvesting techniques.

For the full story go to :

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-27/bee-venom-harvesting/11032174>

2. Manuka honey boom sends New Zealand's bee population soaring

A manuka honey gold rush has seen the number of beehives in New Zealand more than double in the past 10 years, as colonies die off in large parts of Europe and North America. But local beekeepers say a fast-growing population brings its own problems. They are searching for a more sustainable model for their industry.

For the full transcript from ABC radio AM go to:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/am/manuka-honey-boom-sends-new-zealands-bee-population-soaring/11048032>.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held at Merridy and Warren's home at Gleniffer.

Date: Sunday, 12th May 2019

Address: 503 Roses Rd
Gleniffer

LOOK FOR THE BEE MEETING SIGNS

Phone: Merridy - 0421 690 403 or
Warren on 0413 497 356

Time : 10 am for 10:30 start

Activity : There will be a hive activity.

Cost: \$5.00 for lunch

What to Bring:

- ◇ Chairs
- ◇ Protective clothing (The club has some suits for those who don't have any).
- ◇ Salad or luncheon item
- ◇ Something sweet for morning tea or desert
- ◇ Something for the raffle

Colonel Pulling entries for judging:

Honey, chunk honey, wax (block and moulded), frame of capped honey if you have a good one, wax wraps, candles, mead.

Directions:

From Bellingen, turn right at Post Office and cross Lavenders Bridge to North Bellingen, and then left at the roundabout into Wheatley Street, which turns into Gleniffer Road.

A few kilometres out of town the road bends right, if you go straight ahead that is Roses Road. Continue on for about 5 to 6 km and we are on the left. If you get to the turnoff to John Locke Place you have missed our



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driveway. Our driveway is 800 metres long and should be driven slowly. Plenty of parking near the house or the veggie patch. Note that Roses Road is a loop so if you miss the first turn continue on to the top end of Roses Road.

For any enquiries please contact:

Mal Banks - 6649 0990 or

Michael Worraker - 0408 293 031.