



**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)

## August 2021 Newsletter

### MNCABA President's Report

With the COVID situation still in uncertain times, your executive has made the decision to cancel our August meeting. This is unfortunate, but safety and changing regulations are paramount.

Hopefully, we shall be in a much better situation for the September meeting. Second Sunday at Matt Connell's, unless you hear otherwise.

At this time of the year on the coast, it is wise to inspect your hives thoroughly. Check carefully in the brood box for diseases, particularly for AFB. They could also be getting ready to swarm, so check on population growth, creation of drones, queen cells and room for the queen to lay eggs. You may need to take action to prevent this.

Honey stores may be building up, so think about adding a super or harvesting a few frames. Don't be too greedy as a week of wet weather or cold could see the bees needing to utilise their stores.

On a separate note..... Scientists around the world are becoming increasingly aware that studying bees, honey and wax is a window into environmental pollution. I have been becoming increasingly concerned by the "chain or web" created by pesticide use and such things as plastics which don't disappear but just become smaller and smaller until we call them micro plastics and so on. I may talk about this in a future newsletter.

Included in this newsletter, is an article pertaining to some research done by fellow beekeeper and scientist, Carolyn Sonter from Armidale. She has kindly given permission for it to be included here.

Regards,  
Allan

#### Next Meeting (subject to COVID-19)

**Date:** 12 September 2021  
**Time:** 10 for 10.30am  
**Host:** Matt Connell  
**Address:** 142 East Bonville Rd -  
Bonville  
**Contact:** Matt 6653 4375  
Al Thomas 0428 712 587

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Secretary:  
Treasurer:  
Vice Presidents:  
Membership Officer:  
Public Officer:  
Supply Officer:  
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John Carroll  
Glen Locke  
Carina Kerr  
Elsbeth Haenggi



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## **MNCABA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) - SEPTEMBER 2021**

The next meeting will include our AGM, where all MNCABA positions will become vacant, and new nominations called for. The current office-bearers are:

<b>President:</b>	Allan Thomas
<b>Secretary:</b>	Monica Rich
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Merridy Huxley
<b>Vice-Presidents:</b>	Matt Connell, Don Wood
<b>Membership Officer:</b>	Merridy Huxley
<b>Publicity Officer:</b>	Monica Rich, Andrea Stafford
<b>Supply Officer:</b>	Don Wood
<b>Biosecurity Officer:</b>	John Carroll
<b>Social Media Officer:</b>	Glen Locke
<b>Librarian:</b>	Carina Kerr
<b>Assistant Librarian:</b>	Elsbeth Haenggi
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Andrea Stafford

If you are keen to become actively involved in your local Club, this is your chance!

## **FRANK'S HIVE HINTS No 18**

Now that the cold weather is [all but] over you may do a bit more manipulation of the hive but take the precaution of not leaving brood out too long.

Bees may not be progressing in some hives. Check the population and brood pattern. Make sure the queen is present. If you can't find her look for eggs or young brood. Check if bees have stores of honey and pollen. Examine all brood combs for signs of disease.

Make sure strong hives don't become overcrowded or start queen cells. Sometimes bees are determined to swarm but much can be done to prevent it. Enlarge the entrance if it has been restricted. Give foundation as this is the time bees like to build rather than store honey.

This time of the year strong hives can be split but don't be too ambitious causing your strong hive to become weak. Consider the prospects for honey, pollen and the weather over the next few weeks. If nothing is coming in the hives won't prosper, bees won't build new comb and foundation will be chewed and warped. Be a good observer.

LOVE THOSE BEES. *(from the archive of Frank's Hive Hints by the late Frank Karabaic)*



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## **RECENT BEE RESEARCH by UNE PhD candidate Carolyn Sonter**

A molecule once used in firefighting foams in Australia and throughout the world has been found to significantly impact the health of bees, with low levels arresting their development and higher concentrations causing their death. While the use of Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in this country has been phased out since 2004, it persists in the environment, particularly around airports, defence bases, fire training and industrial sites. It remains unclear how bees actually ingest it and introduce it back to the hive, but theories are that PFOS may be taken up either via contaminated drinking water or plant nectar, since plants have been shown to absorb it. Once returned to the hive, PFOS impacts the entire colony and transfers to honey. Health outcomes for humans are currently unknown, but studies in animals have linked PFOS with immune system defects, including some cancers and possibly altered responses to vaccines.

To read the article in full, see the link below:

<https://www.une.edu.au/connect/news/2021/07/when-honey-is-not-so-pure>

## **ABA AND MNCABA 2021/2022 MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**

A significant number of our members have not yet renewed their 2021/22 membership fees for the Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW and the MNCABA. Just a friendly reminder that these are due, and in order to maintain your MNCABA membership you must pay both the club fee and the ABA fee. If not done, your membership will lapse.

You can access your online account at any time via the [ABA website \(beekeepers.asn.au\)](https://www.beekeepers.asn.au), or by clicking here: <https://app.loveadmin.com/Login/D2AB9E7AECE0D5B7F34524B9DF66AB3A.htm>.

### **Insurance**

Click the buttons on the left of the payments screen if you wish to purchase **optional insurance**.

### **Help**

If you still need help contact **Ana Martin** on [membership@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:membership@beekeepers.asn.au) or **Lyll Zweck** on [treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au).



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## **REMINDER: AMERICAN FOULBROOD DISEASE (AFB)**

There have been reported outbreaks of AFB in the Mid North Coast region recently, so with the weather improving there is little excuse for not checking your brood boxes. See the previous newsletter for a brief overview of what to look for, plus references to an excellent YouTube clip on AFB from the DPI if you need.

## **NEXT MEETING (depending on COVID-19 restrictions)**

Date: 12 September 2021

Time: 10 for 10.30am start

Location: 142 East Bonville Rd  
Bonville NSW

Host: Matt Connell pH: 6653 4375

Cost: \$5

Raffle: Donations for the raffle table warmly welcomed.

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

Directions: **From the south** Take left exit off the highway at Archville Station Rd to Bonville  
Turn right at the roundabout onto Pine Creek Way  
Take first road to the right which is East Bonville Rd.

**From the north** Take left exit off the highway at Lyons Rd (Bonville)  
Turn right at the roundabout  
Cross the highway  
Turn left at the roundabout onto Pine Creek Way  
Turn left onto East Bonville Rd (150m past Gleniffer Rd which appears on the right)

*An American bee is also known as ..... a USB !*



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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.

### **ADVERTISEMENTS**

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**THE FOLLOWING CONTENT IS PROVIDED TO HIGHLIGHT BEEKEEPING SERVICES AND SUPPLIES AVAILABLE IN OUR REGION. IN ALLOWING SUCH ADVERTISEMENTS, WE AIM TO ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO MNCABA MEMBERS WHILE ALSO SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES. THE MNCABA ARE NOT, HOWEVER, ABLE TO SPECIFICALLY ENDORSE ANY OF THE OFFERINGS LISTED IN THIS SPACE.**

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#### Services and supplies

- Michael Worraker - Queen bees for sale: the current breeding stock available is Joe Horner Italian Breeder, Caucasian Breeder, artificially inseminated (AI) Cordovan & AI Italian Breeder queens. Queen cells & nucs will also be available. A new supply of Agrisea bee feed has also arrived. Ph: 0408 293 031
- Ross Wood - Mated queens and nucs (Grafton). Ph: 0421 817 710
- Steve Fowler - All manner of beekeeping equipment for sale. Steve and Janet usually turn up at meetings with a ute full of gear. To pre-order call 0418 412 621
- Glenn Locke - Mt Coramba Apiculture – One day beekeeping workshops and Flow-hive mentoring: [www.oraravalleyhoney.com.au](http://www.oraravalleyhoney.com.au) Ph: 0459 066 297
- Coffs Beekeeping Supplies – Ph: 0447 308 906. Judith Webster & Serge Golovin have moved to the Woopi Bee Shed at 23 Hawke Dve Woolgoolga, where they now stock NuPlas hives, Paradise Polystyrene hives & wooden hives, as well as a wide range of stands, suits & protective gear, hive tools & equipment, supplements including mineral bee, and bee-themed gifts. [www.coffsbeekeepingsupplies.com.au](http://www.coffsbeekeepingsupplies.com.au) Email: [coffsbeekeepingsupplies@gmail.com](mailto:coffsbeekeepingsupplies@gmail.com)
- Glenn Leet - Nucs and queen cells: [glenn@inspiremenow.com.au](mailto:glenn@inspiremenow.com.au) Ph: 0428 536 021
- Steve Hayes - Little Star Bees - Nucs and hives plus native bee courses. Ph (02) 6564 8737