



**Amateur  
Beekeepers  
Association**  
NSW MID NORTH COAST

# The Bee Line

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

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## January 2021 Newsletter

### MNC ABA President's Report

Welcome to a brand-new year. This time last year, we were battling fires, bees were doing it tough and we were learning about COVID. A turn around in the weather, with flooding, saw our Christmas gathering postponed.

At a recent executive meeting, it was decided that the February meeting will be the "belated Christmas Meeting", there being no January meeting. The caterer is still on side and we have a large number of "gifts" which have been provided by some very kind sponsors. The list of sponsors is detailed below in this newsletter. Refer to the separate flyer for more specific details regarding the upcoming event on the 14th of next month.

**It is important that we have numbers correct for catering, so .....**

If you have paid for the Xmas meeting and now cannot attend, please let our treasurer, Merridy, know via email [midnorthcoast.membership@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:midnorthcoast.membership@beekeepers.asn.au) or phone 0421 690 403. Conversely, if you can now attend and haven't paid, contact Merridy. If we do not hear from you, we shall assume that matters are "as they were".

It appears that most members are well pleased with their bees this season, with healthy hives and lots of honey being harvested. Just a note on pricing your honey ... it is not good business to sell your honey too cheaply. Good quality honey in containers, correctly labelled etc is worth \$10 - \$12 per kilo, **minimum**. If you want to be more competitive, think presentation or other marketing strategies rather than devaluing your honey by reducing the price. There have been issues with some imported wax products, so good Australian wax is becoming more valuable. Consider processing your wax if you are not already doing it.

As always, we are seeking venues for our meetings throughout the year. I know it is a big ask, but if you are willing to host a meeting, second Sunday of a month, please let us know.

Regards,

Allan

#### Next Meeting -

**Date:** 14 February 2021

**Time:** 11am - 2.30pm

**Address:** Gleniffer Hall,  
8 Promised Land Rd, Gleniffer  
(cnr Gleniffer & Timboon Rds)

**Contact:** Merridy - Ph: 0421 690 403  
Al Thomas - Ph: 0428 712 587

President:  
Secretary:  
Treasurer:  
Vice Presidents:  
Membership Officer:  
Public Officer:  
Supply Officer:  
Newsletter Editor:

Allan Thomas Ph: 0428 712 587, [midnorthcoast.president@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:midnorthcoast.president@beekeepers.asn.au)  
Monica Rich Ph: 0419 298 586, email: [midnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:midnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au)  
Merridy Huxley Ph: 0421 690 403, email: [midnorthcoast.membership@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:midnorthcoast.membership@beekeepers.asn.au)  
Matt Connell; Don Wood  
Merridy Huxley  
Monica Rich  
Don Wood Ph: 0418 112 516  
Andrea Stafford  
[midnorthcoast.editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:midnorthcoast.editor@beekeepers.asn.au)

Biosecurity Officer:  
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## GENEROUS SPONSORS OF THE MNCABA 'XMAS' PARTY LUCKY DRAW

-  [Ecogene.com.au](http://Ecogene.com.au)
-  Vanessa Perske
-  Urunga Butcher
-  Urunga Pharmacy
-  Smells like Home homemade soaps and  
candles
-  Well Bees/New Horizons
-  Beechworth Honey
-  Oceanview Hotel Urunga
-  Coffs Beekeeping Supplies
-  Harvest Owl
-  Lyson Beekeeping Supplies
-  Beachbodies
-  Coffs Harbour Butterfly House
-  Beauty on the Promenade

*Thank you!*

## FRANK'S HIVE HINTS No 12

By this time of the year you should have harvested some honey. Fully capped combs and some 3/4 capped combs can be extracted, but leave some in the hive in case conditions change.

Bloodwood trees (*Eucalyptus gummifera*) are flowering now with showy bunches of white blossom. Their bark is dark and rough. The honey is a reddish colour with a pleasant flavour. It has a stringy property.

Ironbark trees (*Eucalyptus paniculata*) can flower well this season on the coast. It produces the best coastal honey. Your bees may have gathered some. It is usually light in colour with good density and an excellent flavour. The flowers are tiny and the bark dark and roughly furrowed. However it is a poor pollen producer. Other flowers may compensate for this.

Check to see if the queen is laying well. If she is doing poorly replace her now so that the hive will be strong before Winter.

We all learn by observation. Mistakes made this season will help us to do better next season.

LOVE THOSE BEES.

*(from archive of Frank's Hive Hints by the late Frank Karabaic)*



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## BEES IN THE NEWS



Scientists have discovered two species of Australian bees who work the night shift - they have adapted their vision and are pollinating in the dark.

*Reepenia bituberculata* and *Meroglossa gemmata* (try saying those ten times quickly) have developed enlarged compound and simple eyes, thereby enabling them to forage in low light conditions. Women are so versatile!

[https://apple.news/A5TC0liYyTDmVsMH\\_9z5mlg](https://apple.news/A5TC0liYyTDmVsMH_9z5mlg)

## DONATIONS TO THE MNCABA

Stephen Cross has very generously donated the following to our Club:

### Items:

- New Hornsby 6XL jacket with round hat veil
- Smoker and Australian hive tool
- Honeywax press 5L
- Australian Wax Melter 15L
- Other miscellaneous items

### Books:

- The Practical Beekeeper by Michael Bush
- The New Complete Guide to Beekeeping by Roger A Morse
- Increase Essentials by Lawrence John Connor
- Bee-Essentials by Lawrence John Connor
- Swarm Essentials by Stephen J Repasky
- The Bee Book by Ann Cliff
- The Bee Garden by Maureen Little
- The Bee Book by Peter Warhurst & Roger Goebel
- The Thinking Beekeeper by Christy Hemenway
- And the last 22 months worth of the ABK magazine

*Thank you!*

Thanks on behalf of all our members, Stephen!

## FOR SALE

A two year old Topbar hive - as new, never used - for \$250.

Contact Stephen Cross Ph: 0401 529 276

Email: [abydos63@gmail.com](mailto:abydos63@gmail.com)



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## FIRST AID OFFICERS

We need a couple of First Aid Officers in the Club - if anyone is interested in being sponsored to undertake a course and act the part at our meetings, please register your eagerness with one of the Executive or at the next meeting.



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## BEE SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

### 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 and they are in plentiful supply (Don's been shopping!). Apithor traps are \$6.50.

### Other Services and supplies

**NOTE: The information below is provided to highlight beekeeping services and supplies available in our region. In doing so, we aim to assist in the provision of information to MNCABA members while also supporting local businesses, without specifically endorsing the offerings.**

- 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
- Steve Hayes - Little Star Bees - Nucs and hives plus native bee courses. Ph (02) 6564 8737
- Coffs Beekeeping Supplies – Ph: 0447 308 906. Judith Webster & Serge Golovin specialise in polystyrene beehives, and provide a wide range of hive wear, beekeeping tools & equipment [www.coffsbeekeepingsupplies.com.au](http://www.coffsbeekeepingsupplies.com.au) Ph: 0447 308 906 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
- Di McQueen and Scott Richardson - Queens, nucs, hives and beekeeping equipment – [www.honeybeehives.com.au](http://www.honeybeehives.com.au) Ph: 0411 097 275

*What do bees write in their Valentine cards?*

*Honey....bee mine xx*



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## NEXT MEETING



Date: 14 FEBRUARY 2021 (Yes - it's Valentine's Day)

Time: 11am - 2.30pm

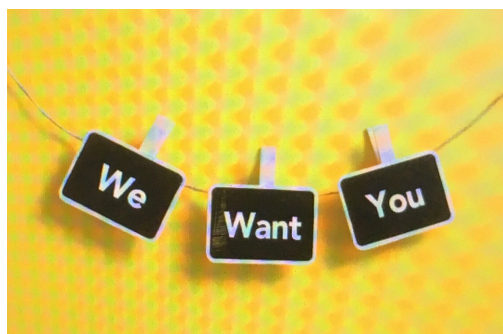
Location: Gleniffer Hall  
8 Promised Land Rd (intersection of Gleniffer Rd & Timboon Rd)  
Gleniffer

BYO: Chair, drinks, something to eat if you have not ordered catered food.  
See emailed flyer for full details.

## COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES FOR OUR MEETINGS (current 23/01/21)

COVID-19 remains a risk, so we must continue to take responsibility in protecting one another when gathering for meetings. The following steps are to be followed as a consequence:

- If you feel unwell, and/or have symptoms, get tested and stay at home.
- When you arrive, use the hand sanitiser provided – often – and for a period of 20 seconds each time. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. If your hands are visibly soiled you need to wash with soap and water.
- Record your name and contact details in the book provided, using your own pen (just like you do when visiting cafes, restaurants, pubs). This is to allow for contact tracing if needed, and is vitally important to safeguard our friends, family and healthcare workers.
- Practice social distancing: you must stay 1.5m away from others. Feel free to wear a mask



We are looking for volunteers to host scheduled meetings this year. It is a great opportunity to return the hospitality shown by last years' hosts, and besides, you have experts at your disposal to check your hive/s on the day. How fabulous!

So if you would like to be involved, email your secretary Monica Rich: [midnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:midnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au)

Or if you are coming to the next meeting, put your hand up there. Thanks in anticipation! Dates available:

- |          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| 11 April | 12 September |
| 9 May    | 10 October   |
| 13 June  | 14 November  |
| 11 July  | 12 December  |
| 8 August |              |

*...and your venue in  
2021!*