



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW MID NORTH COAST

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Mid North Coast Amateur Beekeeping Association

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June 2020 Newsletter **MNC**

ABA President's Report

Hello Everyone,

Another month has gone by without a meeting due to the COVID 19 restrictions. These are loosening bit by bit and it may be possible to meet in July. If not, we shall try for August.

The Committee will meet shortly and if a decision can be made, we will let you know. If this can be done before this newsletter goes out, Mal will add it below somewhere.

With the rain and the mild winter that we are experiencing so far and in the areas that were not burnt, I think we could be in for a good season. I have noticed some Blue Gum and Paper Bark flowering recently, and some stringy bark on the Tablelands as well.

This is the time of year to prepare for the Spring. Make/repair your boxes, frames, nucs etc. Don't put the foundation wax on until you are close to using the frames. This will save them from wax moth attack.

The members who sold honey through the Club bulk collection system should be happy with price of \$6 and \$14.50 for the higher Manuka Factor tested honey per kg.

I think the collection and sale of our surplus bulk honey is generally a good idea. However, there have been a few hassles so we need to review the practicalities of the system if we are to continue. Many thanks to Matt for taking charge and administrating the system.

I have checked approximately 60 hives in recent times with various amateur beekeepers. Many hives were going well, with healthy, well populated hives with good stores. You may also be interested in some of the other things that I found: No queen? – often not correct as they may reduce or may stop laying over winter; some starving; one a bit aggressive - bees were a different colour to the other hives so suspect they had requeened themselves at some stage; a few dead outs – possibly starved or diseased; excessive moisture; a few small hive beetles; one suspected AFB; some wax moths.

How do you think your bees are going?

Next Meeting - AGM

Date: 12th July 2020

Address: Bongil Picnic Area

Williams Rd Bonville

Contact: Al Thomas - Ph: 0428 712 587

Merridy Huxley - 0421 690 403

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Membership Officer:
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Committee:
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Changes to Beekeeper registration from 1st July 2020

By now all registered beekeepers in NSW would have received a letter outlining these changes.

A new condition will come into effect 1 July 2020 requiring existing and new beekeepers registered in NSW to comply with the Australian Honey Bee industry Biosecurity Code of Practice.

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code) has been developed by industry in collaboration with all states and territories to provide a national minimum standard for beekeeping practices. From 1 July 2020, it will be compulsory for beekeepers registered in NSW to ensure their management practices meet the minimum standards outlined in the Code.

Meeting these standards will not be a big change for beekeepers who have already adopted sound management practices in their beekeeping and comply with current requirements under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015.

The Code is divided into parts. Part B of the Code is compulsory for all beekeepers. Part C applies only to beekeepers managing 50 hives or more. Part D is recommended, but not compulsory. A summary of new and existing requirements is available on the NSW DPI registration webpage.

It is the responsibility of all beekeepers to make sure they are complying with all relevant parts of the Code prior to 1 July 2020 to avoid possible penalties following this date

Changes for under 50 hives.

- * Hives must be regularly inspected for pests and diseases. 3 brood inspections a year with record keeping.
- * Records must be kept for pest, disease inspection and sampling.
- * Recommendation (but not enforceable) for beekeepers to maintain a barrier system of hive management.



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FRANK'S HIVE HINTS No 6

Sit in the sun and watch your bees as this is the time to make some pre-spring observations.

1) Pollen being collected by bees is a good sign that the queen is present and laying.

Nectar being carried by heavily landing bees indicates that forage is available

Water needs to be accessible in all seasons

2) If a hive has died out, examine it to find the cause.

a. Starvation. Dead bees have their heads in the cells and there are no stores in the hive.

b. Disease. Try to identify the type- AFB, EFB, Chalkbrood, Etc., DVD's available from our library will help.

c. Pests. Beetles and wax moths are likely to take over when the hive is deserted.

Action. Close the hive entrance to avoid robbing or spread of disease. Dismantle and clean the hive.

Note any concerns about a particular hive and inspect when the weather permits.

LOVE THOSE BEES.

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

Bees in The News

- 1) **Fearless biosecurity officer battling bees and crocodiles on the front line of northern Australia**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-20/tough-beekeeper-protects-northern-territory-biosecurity/12360868>

- 2) **Indigenous knowledge meets beekeeping science in Western Australia's Kimberley region**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-06-14/wach-bush-honey-indigenous-knowledge-beekeeping/12307510>

- 3) **A Bee C: Scientists translate honeybee queen duets**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-53029218>



Training Courses

A two-day workshop in **Beekeeping**



1) **19th and 20th of September, 2020**

BELLINGEN

Tutor:Allan Thomas

Venue:503Roses Road, Bellingen

Workshop Fee:\$345 per person

Fully catered by our hosts. Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements.

Some accommodation available if required.

A bee suit can be provided for your use when working hives, but bring your own if you have one.

This two-day workshop (9.00am to 4.00pm) is a series of lectures and practical tasks. The course endeavours to develop sufficient knowledge, skills and confidence for you to begin keeping bees.

Allan, your facilitator, has had approximately 40 year's beekeeping experience. As an Agricultural / Science teacher, he was recognised with a National Excellence in Teaching Award. Allan was the NSW DPI "Beginning in Bees" trainer for Northern NSW for several years. He now runs courses on his own behalf, wherever there is a demand.

Book/Enquire: Allan - email; beekeepingworkshops@gmail.com or phone; 0428712587

2) **29th and 30th August, 2020**
TAMWORTH

Tutor:Allan Thomas

Venue:Tamworth Beekeeping Supplies, 397 Armidale Road,9.00am to 4.00pm both days

Workshop Fee:\$345 per person

Fully catered by our hosts, Tony and Tracey. Phone 0427 617 794 for special food requirements.



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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. The price of foundation will now be \$2.50 per sheet.

Apithor traps are now \$6.50

Services and supplies

Michael Worraker - also has queen cells for sale at various times

Ross Wood - Mated queens and Nucs (Grafton). Contact 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 - Flow hive mentoring and troubleshooting, queen bees and nucs. Contact 0459 066 297

Steve Hayes - Little Star Bees - Nucs and hives plus courses with native bees. Contact 6564 8737

Di McQueen and Scott Richardson - queens, nucs, hives and beekeeping equipment - honeybeehives.com.au Contact 0411 097 275

Upcoming Events

1) **Next Meeting** - and AGM

Date : 12th July

Location: Bongil Picnic Area - Williams Road Bonville

- Directions: Take the Bonville exit from the Pacific Highway onto Pine Creek Way
- Turn into Williams Road north of Bonville
- Bongil picnic area is at the end of Williams Road

Time : 10:30 am

No Cost

This is a picnic/meeting/get together - so bring your own food and drinks and chairs, and picnic blankets if you wish.

A great chance to get the ball rolling again after Covid -19, catch up with your old bee buddies, and for all the new members come along and meet your fellow MNC club members.

This meeting will include our belated AGM.

All positions will be declared vacant and the new committee will be elected.

This is a great chance to inject new energy and enthusiasm into our club.

In particular we will be looking for a new secretary and a new newsletter editor



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- 2) August Meeting/Field Day - 9/8/2020
At Nana Glen - Sharif's
- 3) September - 13/9/2020 - vacant
- 4) October - 11/10/2020 - vacant
- 5) November - CHCCS - at Bonville 8/11/2020
- 6) December - Xmas party - Coffs Harbour Botannical Gardens

We need some members willing to host meetings in September and October and for any other months next year.

It is a great way to have your hive inspected and any problems remedied.

Honey Collection

The honey sale to Hive and Wellness Australia (formerly Capilano) went ahead and all members who participated have been paid (and quite handsomely too). Congratulations to those who had the Manuka honey in the 4th drum.

Below is information from their newsletter about the brand.

You may have seen some negative comments about Capilano and Hive + Wellness across social media recently. These are misinformed articles being shared by a blogger called Kangaroo Court of Australia. To be clear, we are not owned by China and Capilano honey is not Chinese. No products on supermarket shelves packed by us, or our parent company, contain Chinese honey.

Blogger Shane Dowling, of "Kangaroo Court of Australia", has been staging a digital media campaign of negative, damaging comments aimed to defame and damage the Capilano brand. Our company has instigated, through the Supreme Court of New South Wales, defamation and injurious falsehood action aimed to prevent Shane Dowling (Kangaroo Court) from making these untrue and false claims as a last resort of action. Shane Dowling has a history of publishing complete falsities about various people and organisations, including Capilano. It should be noted Mr Dowling has a range of convictions, that are unrelated to this matter, and has recently spent time in jail on several occasions because of judgments against him; he also has been found by the court to have defamed various people without justification.

We are Australian owned and operated. Honey used in the Capilano brand is 100% Australian honey that is supplied by your family. You can also proudly say your family's honey is being packed and marketed by an Aussie business that employs around 150 locals across our three facilities in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia.