



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW MID NORTH COAST

The Bee Line

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

September 2022 Newsletter

MNCABA President's Report

Hello everyone,

It was perfect weather for our beekeeping meeting. Monica's lovely backyard in Urunga was the venue. Thank you Monica, for hosting us.

The usual meeting formalities were addressed. It was decided that our AGM will be held at our November meeting.

All positions will be declared vacant. To nominate someone to a position, first ask that person if they are willing to stand. You then nominate that person with a seconder. Voting will take place on the day.

A new position has crept in "Lucky draw product purchaser". No need to vote on this one. If you would like to do a little shopping with someone else's money, please volunteer.

We have decided to dedicate the December meeting to being a social gathering. A small committee is investigating venues and catering options. As the Club is quite financial, we can give back to members by subsidising the event. Save the date, 11th December, and watch this space for more information.

We inspected four hives, some frame manipulating took place in an attempt to ward off swarming and to strengthen a weaker hive. The weaker hive was also given a piece of pollen substitute and a bag of sugar syrup. In due course this hive would benefit with a new queen.

Reports are coming in about swarming. The trick is to try to prevent this. Read up on swarm prevention. If yours swarm, catch them if you can, rather than wave them goodbye. They will only establish somewhere else and possibly become a nuisance in the future. The ABA has a register of people for swarm collecting.

I, plus some other members have been assisting with the Varroa incursion. If you have the time, put your hand up. Accommodation, meals and travel are covered. Unfortunately, hives in the red zone have to be euthanised. Some of our members are caught up in this. Even with compensation, it is tough and our thoughts are with them. They will be able to recommence beekeeping next March we believe. The Hunter incursion zone will see no beekeeping for three years!

Next Meeting

Date: 9 October 2022

Time: 10 for 10.30am

Host: Judith & Serge

Address: Coffs Beekeeping
Supplies, 23 Hawke Drive,
Woolgoolga

Contacts:

Monica 0419 298 586

President: Allan Thomas 0428 712 587, midnorthcoast.president@beekeepers.asn.au

Secretary: Monica Rich 0419 298 586, midnorthcoast.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au

Treasurer: Merridy Huxley 0421 690 403, midnorthcoast.membership@beekeepers.asn.au

Vice Presidents: Matt Connell & Don Wood

Membership Officer: Merridy Huxley

Public Officer: Monica Rich

Supply Officer: Don Wood 0418 112 516

Newsletter Editor: Alison Beswick midnorthcoast.editor@beekeepers.asn.au

Biosecurity Officer: John Carroll

Social Media Officer: Glen Locke

Librarian: Carina Kerr

Ass.Librarian: Elsbeth Haenggi

First Aid Officer: Paul McLeod



As an aside, it has been really interesting to see the variety of beekeeping practices. Flow hives, ordinary Langstroths, Top Bars, boxes made of wood, Poly, plastic, a huge assortment of bottom boards and lids, excluders, no excluders, single and double brood, the list goes on. One of the crews that I worked with wished we could have emoji stickers of smiley faces for well kept bees. We inspected scores of recreational and commercial hives. On a scale of 1 to 10 we could delegate the full range to both sectors. Education and applying it in practice are the key to raising the beekeeping bar.

Regards,
Allan



The hive inspections took place in the lush surrounds of Monica's productive garden in Urunga.





FRANK'S HIVE HINTS No 20 - SMOKERS //

There are a lot of smokers available but they are not all the same efficiency or quality. Australian made stainless steel is preferred. Those made with cheaper metals will rust and buckle. They come in several diameter sizes. A 4 inch diameter is recommended. Bellows are usually leather or vinyl and can be replaced in time if necessary. Smokers need to be cleaned regularly as residue tends to build up. Scrape it off carefully so as not to damage the smoker. Do not overlook this important job and your smoker will last for many years.

Many kinds of fuel are used in smokers. The ideal fuel will produce volumes of cool smoke and will stay alight longer. Dry pine needles are a favourite but they produce a lot of sticky residue. That's why a lot of beekeepers prefer something else. Fine, dry bark can be used such as that from Paperbark or Stringybark trees. Hessian is sometimes used but the smoke can contain ash. Bags made of hessian are sometimes exposed to insecticides or other chemicals that can aggravate bees. Don't use newspaper as the smoke can be too hot and toxic.

Use smoke in the hive as required by sensing the mood of the bees. Too much smoke will panic the bees and make them run everywhere. Too little smoke won't control their aggression. Make sure the smoker is working well before opening a hive. Don't be a hero! Wear protective clothing and use your smoker wisely.

Love those bees!



**What is small, black and yellow,
and drops things?**

A fumble bee.



CLUB SUPPLIES //

Foundation and Apithor

Don Wood has our Club's supplies of Wax Foundation and Apithor SHB traps. Please contact him on pH: 0418112516 or by email: rabbittrap2873@yahoo.com

The price of foundation is \$2.60 per sheet. Apithor SHB traps are \$6.50.

Don is also the guardian of our two hive extractors that are available for loan to club member.



NEXT MEETING //

DATE Sunday 9th October

TIME 10 for 10:30am

VENUE Coffs Beekeeping Supplies,
23 Hawke Drive, Woolgoolga

HOSTS Judith and Serge 0447 308 906

COST \$5

PLEASE BRING chair, food, drinks, hat, bee protection gear,
and any **outstanding library books**



FUTURE MEETINGS //

November 13 AGM

December 11 Christmas function

REMINDER //

Membership renewals are due by September 30. There is a new simplified 'quick checkout' online with links to it in the latest ABA emails.

This year's membership pack includes a membership card, log book and drone uncapping fork with instructions.

