



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW MID NORTH COAST

The Bee Line

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

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September 2021 Newsletter

MNCABA President's Report

Hello everyone,

The uncertainty with the COVID lockdowns continues! Your Executive has decided to cancel our September meeting and aim for a great meeting on the 10th October. If this can happen, we shall “celebrate” with some major lucky draw prizes to get us all motivated again. Matt Connell is still happy to have it at his place. See below for directions etc.

Most hives have made it through winter and hopefully your first Spring inspection has been done. Look for pests, diseases and signs that they may swarm. I know that some people have been able to harvest some honey as well.

I have now had three reports about beginners buying “dodgy” nucs. Unfortunately two had AFB (notifiable disease, complete destruction of bees and box) and the other was an overly aggressive hive, which can be dealt with over time. My advice is to compare your purchase with buying a used car Check it out thoroughly, if you don't know what to look for, take someone who does know... and then there is the price? Remember that you need to have your beekeeper registration (through the DPI) and the number has to be displayed on your hive (brood box). Best also to get some “paperwork” re purchase.

We are in the process of putting some “beginner packs” together for new members. Hopefully the items can be placed in a bag (still to be sourced and printed with our name and logo).

Some time ago, I wrote a short article about micro plastics in food, including honey. As it turns out, other people must have been thinking about it as well because there is a similar article in the last ABK. I shall include mine in this newsletter.

Regards,
Allan

Next Meeting (subject to COVID-19)

Date: 10 October 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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Treasurer:
Vice Presidents:
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The Bee Line

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Beekeeping Association

FRANK'S HIVE HINTS No 19

"There's never been a better time of year to be a beekeeper", says Frank. He goes on to describe taking a trip out west to see the Turnip Weed in bloom. However in these times it seemed a little cruel (& against health orders) to appeal to your sense of travel, so perhaps we will include that story another time. Moving on to Hive Hint 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 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 many beekeepers prefer something else. Fine, dry bark can be used, such as that from paperbark or stringy bark 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 hot and toxic.

Use smoke in the hive as required by sensing the mood of your 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 the hive. Don't be a hero! Wear protective clothing and use your smoker wisely."

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

KITCHEN BUZZ - Caramelised honey cream

If you wish to elevate any dessert to new heights, believe me this simple recipe will do it - it's delicious.

60g Mid North Coast honey
50ml pure cream
200g double cream

Cook honey in a saucepan over medium heat until it starts to caramelize.
Remove from the heat and immediately pour in the pure cream, whisking continually to ensure the caramel does not set.
Cool and fold through double cream.

Serve with your favourite sweet thing.

(From Glasshouse Restaurant, Tamworth, NSW. Published in *Country Style* May 2021)



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Mid North Coast Amateur Beekeeping Association

PURE HONEY? BY ALLAN THOMAS

I have always considered honey to be pure liquid gold. However, in our changing world, the pollution of land, air and water seems to be having an impact on what we consume, honey included.

A couple of recent scientific research articles have reported on “micro plastics”. The synthetic polymer plastics being discussed have really made our lives easier and arguably better. Think ... packaging, clothing, ornaments, toys, construction, containers, cosmetics, exfoliants and so on.

The problem is that they don't just disappear at the end of their useful life. Eventually, they all break down into smaller and smaller fragments. Some quicker than others of course. The very small particles become what we call micro plastics or even nano plastics.

The micro plastics are now everywhere, all corners of the earth: in the oceans, in the air, in fresh water streams, in tap water, in bottled water, in plant and other food products. Apparently on average, we are consuming about a credit card amount of micro plastic per week.

Micro plastics have been demonstrated to cause:

- Hormone disruption
- Reduction in appetite
- Impaired neurological and metabolic development
- Cancer stimulant
- Immune system disorders

Scientific testing on samples of honey taken from a range of European and non-European countries have all been found to contain micro plastics.

I have not been able to find research on what may constitute an “acceptable amount” or level of micro plastics in food for human consumption.

For honey, the scientists contributed the sources of micro plastics to three main areas:

- 1) Environment ... bees carrying it back eg. in nectar, pollen, propolis, water and attached their hairy bodies.
- 2) Beekeeping practices and equipment
- 3) Processing and packaging

Food for thought! I think we shall hear more about this in the future.

A bee who eats too much may become a little chub-bee !



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Beekeeping Association

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 overdue, 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 - an optional extra from the ABA for \$15

Public liability cover for amateur beekeepers is based on the number of hives you keep, and provides you with cover in case a third party sues you for injury or property damage done by your bees, or from the products you sold. This cover is designed for individuals with less than 100 hives, and is not for commercial beekeepers.

Activities covered:

Maintenance of one or more apiary sites with bee hives:

- Assemble & build beekeeping equipment, work on bee hives, moving beehives
- Collecting bee swarms and established colonies. The collection of swarms and established colonies must be a community service and not a commercial undertaking and incidental to the members usual beekeeping
- Extract, bottle or pack honey and honey products
- Sell honey and honey products, sell beekeeping equipment, attend markets and shows

Activities not covered:

Liabilities arising from any damage made / caused by the beekeeper to gain access to bees such as in swarm collection are not included.

Apiarian/Bee Products covered

Apiarian products include the production, distribution & sale of the following:

- Liquid honey, creamed honey, candied honey, honeycomb & chunk honey
- Creamed or liquid honey with up to 8% natural fruit/plant flavouring
- Pollen, Queen bees, bee colonies
- Bees wax, candles, wraps, furniture polish

Apiarian/Bee Products not covered

- Royal Jelly, honey based beverages including mead
- Lip balm & all other cosmetics
- Creamed or liquid honey with more than 8% single natural fruit/single natural plant flavouring
- Creamed or liquid honey containing nuts.

For further enquiries please contact the Secretary on insurance@beekeepers.asn.au



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Beekeeping Association

To Bee or Not to Bee: A podcast salute to the world's most magical insect

Bee buddies Patrice Newell and Dani Lloyd-Prichard have more than 50 years' bee-keeping experience between them. They've been talking bees for so long they decided to record their conversations. The result is a brand-new podcast, **Bee Therapy**.

In each episode Patrice and Dani discuss bee news and gossip, about Australian Manuka honey for example, or whether grumpy bees are more productive, and where best to position a bee hive in either the metropolitan area or out in the country. They answer questions too, such as when and how the first European bees arrived in Australia and whether eating local honey really does help keep allergies at bay.

They also discuss some of their favourite bee books, like Bill McKibbon's *Oil and Honey*, review bee movies like the inspirational Turkish-language *Keeping the Bees*, and examine recent bee research papers. And they share some of their delicious tried and tested honey recipes, like honey peanut-butter bliss balls.



Whether you're a bee keeper or a bee lover, Bee Therapy is packed with information about what's happening in the world of earth's most important little creature. Tune in on your favourite podcast platform, or on <https://beetherapy.buzzsprout.com>

Dr Patrice Newell AM is a writer and sustainable land-manager dedicated to developing and communicating improved agricultural systems and innovations in an era of rapid climate change. Her bees live on her biodynamic farm in the Upper Hunter Valley. **Dani Lloyd-Prichard** is a bee researcher and educator who co-authored the 'Australian Native Bees' AgGuide and runs courses and coaching for women keen to finesse their beekeeping skills. Dani's bees live around Lake Macquarie, Newcastle.



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Beekeeping Association

A MUST-SEE BEE MOVIE

This movie is set in the northeastern Caucasus mountains of Turkey, with quite stunning scenery. A local woman Ayse returns from Germany to visit her mother, who's unexpected dying wish is for Ayse to take over care of her beloved bees. The tale is a mix of comedy, despair, beauty & resilience. Available to stream on Netflix.



Zoe Campbell, who lives at Sancrox (5 mins out of Wauchope and 15 mins from Port Macquarie), is offering land with good vegetation to any interested beekeepers. They have hosted hives "for many years", and wish to extend an offer to anyone looking for a safe and productive place to keep some bees. For further details, contact Zoe on 0407 956 071, or via email zoe.campbell33@gmail.com .

STOP PRESS



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Mid North Coast Amateur Beekeeping Association

NEXT MEETING (depending on COVID-19 restrictions)

- Date: 10 October 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)

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

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

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



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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: rabbittrap2873@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

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.

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 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 Email: coffsbeekeepingsupplies@gmail.com
- Glenn Leet - Nucs and queen cells: glenn@inspiremenow.com.au Ph: 0428 536 021
- Steve Hayes - Little Star Bees - Nucs and hives plus native bee courses. Ph (02) 6564 8737