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Macarthur-
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The Macarthur Beekeeper

Views expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the committee, the members, or the Association

Word from the President - Jim

We now have a workable committee; a bit messy but we got there in the end. Looking forward, we are compiling a list of all the club's commitments including contact names and positions. We are trying a different approach to these events by having a team leader or co-ordinator to organise each event. Volunteers will be required to work these events. After each meeting feel free to speak with the member running the event. They will have tasks or dates to roster members on. One example is the Bunnings stall. As part of a small team of three you will engage with the public to sell club honey and some of your own. I will cover this when next we meet.

I attended the last field day at our apiary for this season with Torsten, Anthony and several members. The bees are in good condition, and the gardens look neat and tidy.

At the next meeting I will share my experience of entering honey competitions.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

As we present to the **public at schools, shows and events where children are present** it ***imperative that you have a working with children check.***

We will be holding a record of registration.

If you wish to represent the club where children are present please apply at

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-working-children-check>

Once you have approval and a Working with Children number.

Please forward:

1. Your name,
2. Date of Birth,
3. Your Working with Children number, and
4. Expiry Date,

to Anna secretary@macbeekeepers.asn.au

Tips & Tricks - Torsten (Apiary Officer)

I am sure everybody has done their pre winter inspection by now to see if there are any diseases and making sure the hives are in good condition.

- ✓ Enough honey stores,
- ✓ healthy queen and
- ✓ good condition of hardware.

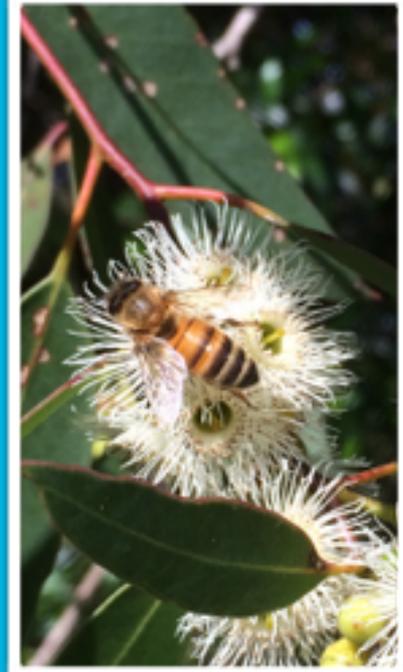
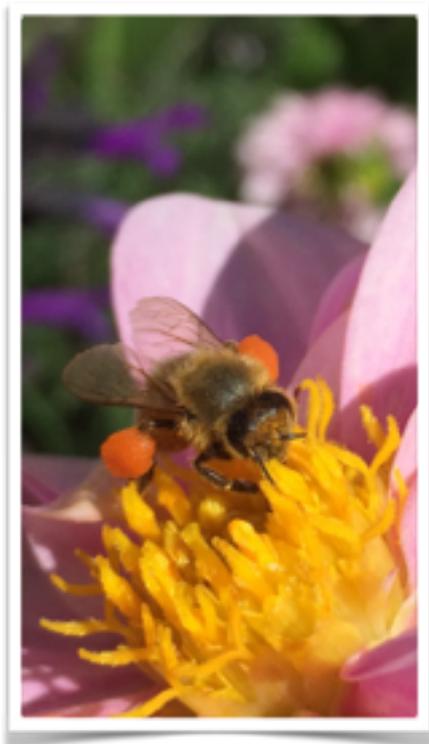
As winter approaches this final inspection is a good starting point to make notes of what to prepare for winter.

- Are all hive components in good condition?
- Do I need to paint any boxes?
- How many new frames will I need next spring?
- Do I have nuke boxes for splits or swarms coming in the new season?

These are some of the thoughts that come to mind when I think about winter.

You can extend these thoughts in any direction, go ahead

I will certainly think about bee food and get out this autumn and plant more bee friendly plants. If you are not sure what's good for your garden ask your fellow beekeepers at the next club meeting.



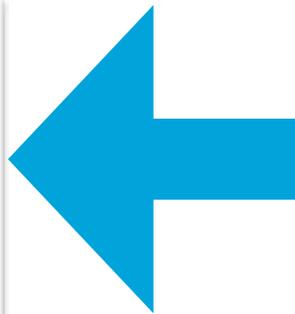
Can you find the queen in the above photo?

-Torsten

Perennial Flower Suggestions For Your Garden - Dallys (Garden Co-ordinator)

Salvia - Year Round Bee Food

Not all salvias (also called sage) flower year round, but this purple one does (see below). It provides bees with high nectar and low pollen. You can grow several salvias into a six foot hedge or keep trimmed to two feet. Plant your pruning as it grows easily from cuttings. In fact, if you plant a hectare of salvia you would yield 200 -400kg of honey! A smaller salvia which is also long flowering is Salvia Blue Spires. It has blue spikes similar to lavender and also grows easily from cuttings. There are countless varieties of salvia although not all attract bees, but most blue and purple varieties do.



Dallys surrounded by her salvia hedge

Research Articles – Ralph (Education Officer)

Pretty, Fragrant, But Toxic To Honey Bees

Yellow Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) is often used in landscaping and gardens for its beauty and fragrance. The plant is said to contain alkaloids that are toxic to humans and other vertebrates. The toxic alkaloids found in its pollen and nectar, also found on honey bees. In a USDA report: young workers are affected and die soon, whereas older adult bees appear normal. Larvae and pupae die in cells and become mummified, and the colony can be slightly to severely weakened by using it as a food source (Burnside and Vansell 1936). Beekeepers reported that, during the bloom, younger bees can often be found dead on the bottom board. The bees act strangely, as if they are intoxicated, and are less active. If the poisoning is bad, brood often dies. It seems to affect queen breeders the most. Beekeepers have reporting having low success rates when trying to raise queen cells during bloom. Source: <https://beeinformed.org/2017/03/13>



Preparing Your Bees For Winter Part 2/2

In Part 1/2 in the April 2017 issue, we looked at these points about getting your bees through winter:

1. On average, 20% of unmanaged bee colonies may die during winter. However, in managed hives this figure can vary from around 5% to 100%, depending on the measures taken in autumn to prepare for winter.
2. The prime consideration for over-wintering bees is to keep them alive and in reasonable condition to come into the spring.
3. The survival into spring will largely depend on what management practices were adopted in autumn, not what is done in winter.
4. The final inspection before the onset of winter should take place in April or the beginning of May at the latest.

Good instructions to keep in mind when preparing your hive for winter:

- Nosema, a disease of adult bees, is particularly significant in an over-wintering situation. Nosema is associated with stress through nutrition deficiencies and manipulation. It impacts on the performance of the colony. Management techniques rather than medication are used to control this disease (more or less similar to those practices used for over-wintering bees).
- Winter Feeding - More colonies die from starvation than from any other cause during winter. Colonies should be reduced to doubles (two boxes) and, if strong in numbers, should have one box nearly full of honey. If the colony is on the weaker side, it is desirable to over-winter the colony in a brood box as a single deck hive. The colony should have three or four frames full of honey. The alternative is to feed sugar in syrup form. If this method is selected, it is better to feed in bulk before winter than to feed in small lots through winter. Use white table sugar. Brown, raw or any other sugars are not suitable and will lead to digestive problems if fed to bees. A ration of 2/1 sugar/water is usually recommended for winter stores. As a guide 2.5 kg of sugar is equal to one frame of honey. Weaker solutions tend to stimulate the colony, a situation to avoid at this time of the year. Take care not to leave fermented sugar syrup in the feeders. If bees haven't consumed the syrup within 3 days, discard the syrup. During the winter period, dry sugar feeding has been used with some success. Place white table sugar on the inner mat under the lid.
- Location and site of the apiary, important at any time of year, is of particular concern during cooler months. Wind can devastate honey bee populations in the winter. Wind whistling through the hive will place the hive under a lot of stress, causing the colony to consume its stored honey very quickly and increasing the level of disease, particularly Nosema. Locate your hives in a dry sunny area, preferably with a north-east aspect and protected from prevailing winds. This will ensure the maximum number of cleansing flights, which will help to keep Nosema at a low level.

Considerations

- Hives in coastal areas are more inclined to rear brood through the winter. These warmer areas encourage bees to forage all winter, thus requiring a higher level of management. A close check should be kept of stored pollen, Nosema levels, and the amount of brood. –
- It is often an advantage to reduce the entrance. This will allow weaker colonies to guard their entrance more effectively.
- Remember that the best time for over-wintering preparation is autumn. Much better to do your winter activities in your garage or workshop, preparing and repairing equipment for the coming spring.
- If you wish to check on the progress of colonies during winter, choose a warm sunny day. You should visit your hives once a month and lift them up by the back hand hole to check their weight. Remember, when bees start to increase the brood area towards the end of winter, starvation is the greatest problem.

*Source: NSW Department of Primary Industries *Primefact 998 *Doug Somerville *Technical Specialist Bees, Agricultural Production and Industry Development, *Goulburn *<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees> * narrated by Ralph

Supplies Of Chocolate And Coffee Are At Risk Warns UN

The report is the result of more than two years of work by scientists across the globe who got together under several different UN agencies to come up with an assessment of Earth's biodiversity, starting with the pollinators. Supplies of chocolate and coffee are at risk as pollinating bees and butterflies are being driven to extinction, warns UN report * Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3465170/UN-science-report-warns-fewer-bees-pollinators.html#ixzz4eBFc46Oh>



Articles To Research At Home

- UN-sponsored scientific report warns too many species of pollinators are nearing extinction *Read more at <https://www.usnews.com>
- Tobacco Ringspot Virus, or TRSV *Read more: <https://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/at-the-edge>
- NZ Colony Loss Survey <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science>

Bees & Children

- Kids and Bees Its very funny *visit: "[BringBacktheBees](#)" on Facebook
- Tobi and the bees *visit: <http://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk>
- Bumble kids *visit: <https://bumblebeeconservation.org>

Get to Know Tropilaelaps Mites, Another Serious Parasite of Honey Bees

<https://academic.oup.com/jee/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/jee/tow304>

My Brush with Honey Royalty
Here I am with Honeyland Coordinator
Bruce White OAM



Honeyland Sydney Royal Easter Show 2017

From Our Members

Honeyland Sydney Royal Easter Show 2017

I had the pleasure along with Lurline Tanner and Ken Jackson of volunteering at Honeyland, the NSW Apiarists Association stall at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Duties were overseeing the tasting of 5 different honeys (macadamia, mallee, citrus, iron bark and 'bush'), selling honey and other honey products, keeping stock on the shelves and talking to customers. There is so much goodwill toward bees and honey that it was very enjoyable interacting with customers. There was also a live bee display with an Apiarist hopping into a large enclosure several times a day and showing the public inside a hive. The bees were rotated every 2 days with hives that are kept on the roof of the Woolworth's Dome. Honeyland is a first rate exhibit and stall.- *Dallys*



Here is an article Miskell recently found: **Effects of steel foundation wire on elemental content and hygienic removal of honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) brood**
Honey and honey bees are often contaminated with trace metals, some of which are associated with food resources. However, in some cases metal contamination may be coming from within the hive. Based on preliminary observations, we hypothesized that steel foundation wire negatively affects honey bee brood health. To test our hypothesis we quantified the elemental content and measured the removal rates of honey bee brood developing in cells overlapping foundation wires and in control cells adjacent to cells that overlapped foundation wires. We found evidence that brood positioned in cells overlapping the wires contained significantly more iron and was removed at a significantly higher rate compared to control brood. Our study identifies the harmfulness of the common modern beekeeping practice of placing steel wire in beeswax foundation, which if avoided may increase colony population size and improve the health of managed honey bee colonies. Authors Kaira Malinda Wagoner, Olaf Rueppell
For full article, <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Thank you volunteers



Capilano Honey Making Headlines

4 Apr 2017 — Capilano Honey through CEO Ben McKee have admitted they illegally sold honey in a subsidiary brand Sunny Flo in Western Australia. In Australia it is illegal to sell imported honey without stating imported on the label. This serious offence misled consumers into buying the honey thinking it was Australian.

After *Save The Bees Australia* alerted the public Capilano removed the honey from the shelves.

The requirement to bring honey into WA is to heat treat the honey at 65 degrees Celsius for eight hours. Every jar of honey on shop shelves that is not West Australian has been heat treated. That is the LAW. You may as well boil Coca-Cola and eat the syrup as far as nutrition goes. * Source: <https://www.change.org>

Meetings & Events

Please keep checking MBAI web site for event updates: [www. Macbeekeepers.asn.au](http://www.Macbeekeepers.asn.au)

May 2017

17th - 7:30pm Club Meeting *Jim on Honey Competition experiences *bring finger food

20th - NSW Apiarists Assoc. Field Day. 9am-4pm Alstonville Showground. Alstonville.

21st - ABA AGM & Colonel Pulling Competition. 9am at Ballina RSL.

June 2017

3rd - 9:00am Field Day at Apiary weather permitting

19th - Find club newsletter on website

21st - 7:30pm Club Meeting *speaker to be advised *bring finger food

July 2017

1st - 9:00am Field Day at Apiary weather permitting

17th - Find club newsletter on website

19th - 7:30pm Club Meeting *speaker to be advised *bring finger food

We like to hear your ideas!

Please send your ideas and feed back to Anna

liaison@macbeekeepers.asn.au

or catch up with your committee at the next meeting.

Topics and articles for our newsletter are also welcome.

Send to: editor@macbeekeepers.asn.au

Club Honey

Now available
in 1 kg Tubs
Contact Anthony
on
0412 577 828



Club Shirts

Contact Jessy or
Michael at the
next meeting
17th May!
With Name \$65
Without Name
\$60