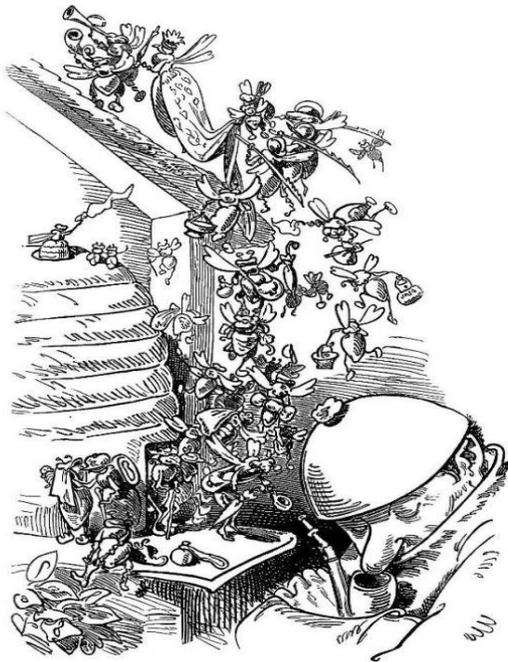


The Macarthur Beekeepers Newsletter

September 2015

Word from the president

Views expressed in the news letter do not necessary represent the views of the committee



August has been a fantastic month for Macarthur Beekeepers, with top participation during our monthly meeting, the new public education event at Tim's Garden center and a successful River Fest sales event. A little more in a moment.

Did you know we print the Macarthur Beekeepers News Letter out in paper form? If you know of a member that would like the news letter printed out could you please let Lindsay (0401181161) know.

Here's an important reminder for our Tocal field trip

Tocal Field Day on the 24th of October 2015

Please let Anthony (0412577828) know that you would like to hop' on the bus for the trip. Bookings are urgent now! The cost is \$45 per person.

Schedule of Tocal Field Day Events

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 8:45 – 9:00 | Introduction and outline of program |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Native Bees, presentation of poster |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Leptospermum in the Hunter Valley |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Morning Tea |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Vocational Training of Beekeepers |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | splitting a strong hive and strengthening a weak one |
| 12:30 – 1:00 | Opening beehives for beginners |
| 1:30 – 2:00 | Lunch |
| 2:00 – 2:30 | The flow hive |
| 2:30 - 3:00 | Bio Security |
| 3:00 - 3:30 | Four pillars of beekeeping |
| 3:30 – 3:45 | Questions and answers |

Some of the demonstrations at Tocal are outside. It may be best to bring a hat & your veil.

During the trip we'll have opportunity to talk bees. Pick a mentor and ask as many questions as you can.

The seminar topics are presented by the states best known beekeepers. This is an important event, you don't want to miss. Agricultural Centre, 815 Tocal Rd, Paterson NSW 2421, Australia



A picture that says it all

The future of NSW beekeeper education!?

Do you have a picture that tells a story? Why not share it in the Macarthur Beekeepers News Letter



The Amateur Beekeepers Association

The latest news letter boasts 30 pages. It can be down loaded at <http://www.beekeepers.asn.au/>

Because of its size, we will not make a lot of paper copies of this news letter. If you would like to read it as a hard copy could you please contact Lindsay (0401181161) before the next meeting?

Among the many interesting topics is the update on the new proposed MMS = membership management system. The proposed new system offers very practical features, e.g. all member details are written into the system once, they can be updated by members themselves, branches will still be able to approve new members and so on. We are looking forward to using it online in the near future.

Which article did you enjoy in the August ABA news letter?



Bee careful Bayer CropScience



The world's heavy weight - international manufacturer of pesticide talks bees and boy they're good. They present everything so prettily. Here are BAYER's tips for a garden design that will also help beneficial insects:

Whenever possible, plant pollen- and nectar-rich plants. They should be well adapted to the local climate and soil conditions and will provide a natural food-source for our beneficial insects.

Plan for a long flowering season. Flowers from spring to autumn will offer pollinators a steady and diverse source of food.

Plant generously and in sunny spots. Pollinators like big clusters of flowers in light and sunny parts of the garden.

Create nesting and refuge habitats for native bees. They are attracted to hollow spaces. They find them in bamboo sticks, wooden logs with holes drilled in them, in empty

snail shells, dead wood or natural stone walls.

Offer bees a source of water put small bird baths in your garden and place several stones in them to serve as a platform for bees to stand on when collecting water. <http://beecare.bayer.com/home/lp>

My advice:

Do as they say,

but don't use their spray.

Bee colonies wiped out as parasite *Lotmaria passim* spreads through New Zealand

During our August meeting we discussion the importance to keep up to date with bee health issues. Traditional mentoring in beekeeping is irreplaceable and needs to be promoted, but it may not be enough to stay on guard against new pests and diseases that can befall bees.

There is a strong move to adopt a "New Thinking". More and more emphasis is placed on communication between the stake holder like farmers, beekeepers, government and organizations and education on *Biosecurity*.

Here is an example from NZ that shows the important role education, early detection and communication plays when dealing with bee diseases.

The NZFarmer.CO.NZ internet web site reported substantial losses of colonies due to a *new* bee parasite on the Coromandel Peninsula . <http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming> Here are some points from the article:



- several regions around New Zealand that have reported the loss of thousands of colonies of honey bees since last spring (2014)
- Reports of similar bee losses have surfaced from the Raglan and Wairarapa regions while Canterbury hobbyists have reported very heavy hive losses in Christchurch city last autumn.
- commercial beekeeper and scientist said the disappearance of large numbers of bees from her hives between late August and early December 2014 happened very quickly and was devastating, with a 65 per cent loss of production
- Reports suggest up to 95 per cent of bees in each hive disappeared without trace

- Surviving colonies of bees on the Coromandel had very high levels of *Nosema apis* and *Nosema ceranae*, two recently discovered uni-cellular parasites that also attack the gut of honey bees
 - DNA tests by Gisborne researcher John Mackay confirmed the presence of *Lotmaria passim* pathogen in those areas
 - The Ministry for Primary Industries said that it was likely to have been present in New Zealand for some time, and had simply gone undetected. It was first detected in Australia in the 1960s
 - It said the importance of its detection in NZ was not known

NZ is like most places in the world, it has beekeeper trade education and also amateur beekeeper education. Yet the losses in this region were still great. Could an early detection system, like *sentinel hives* around the peninsula reduced the losses? Where *Nosema* symptoms that came along with this outbreak were well known among the beekeepers? What would happen if a similar outbreak reaches our Macarthur region during this summer?

Does it matter how *early you spot* a disease like *Nosema* and *who do you call*?

In NSW all amateur beekeepers are pretty much responsible for their own bee disease education. *Knowing* and *spotting* possible disease indicators, *talking* about it *to a beekeeper you trust* and check with *DPI* and *Plant Health Australia* is a good strategy to minimize losses.

Would you like to research what is available to keep up to date? Why not start with *Prime Fact Sheet* on *Nosema* from the *Plant Health Australia* web site www.planthealthaustralia.com.au

At the top under Industries choose: *Honey bees*

At right hand side under (PIDD) Pest Information Document Database choose again: *Honey Bee*

Then click: *Pest common name* and choose: *Nosemosis*



Did you know?

The Australian honey bee industry produces between 20,000 and 30,000 tonnes of honey annually. Approximately 4,630 tonnes is exported per year (of the three years to March 2014);

70 per cent of Australian honey is produced from native flora.

The gross value of production of the beekeeping industry in 2012-13 was \$88 million.

There are approximately 12,400 registered beekeepers in Australia with around 528,000 hives.

Over 70 per cent of hives are operated by commercial beekeepers with more than 200 hives, and most commercial apiarists operate 400 to 800 hives; some have more than 3,000 hives.

Bees prefer foods containing neonicotinoid pesticides

Research data indicate that bees cannot taste neonicotinoids and are not repelled by them. Instead, bees preferred solutions containing IMD or TMX. They are 2 of the three most commonly used neonicotinoids, imidacloprid (IMD), thiamethoxam (TMX), and clothianidin (CLO). Sub lethal concentrations alter the behavior of social bees and reduce survival of entire colonies. The consumption of these pesticides caused them to eat less food overall. This work shows that bees cannot control their exposure to neonicotinoids in food and implies that treating flowering crops with IMD and TMX presents a sizeable hazard to foraging bees. <http://www.nature.com> Sebastine Kessler 7, 2015

Macarthur Beekeepers Association Inc Logo

We are inviting your suggestion what and how our club logo should look like. Logos are not to be mistaken for pretty pictures, they have a function.

In today's context, a logo carries messages about us, club activities and goals and why we are here. A logo is the icon that champions Macarthur Beekeepers' activities and ethos into our community.

On the banner displayed in the pictures of the event at Tim's is our present logo. It is from way back and pretty much looks like the ABA logo and never found its way into the context of the community around us or onto our documents, cards and correspondence.

Please feel free to approach any of your committee members with your suggestions. We are trying to have 3 proposals available before December for viewing and welcome your input in finding the most suitable Logo for Macarthur Beekeepers

Macarthur Beekeepers Constitution

Between now and January you will be asked to look at and vote for, or against the new constitution. As you may know our current one is out dated (1984) and needs to be up to date. We hope to have a copy of the draft up on the web site in the member section and we will bring copies to the meetings.

The updated constitution is based on the valid *Associations Incorporated Act 2009* and its *Associations Incorporated Regulation (2010) Schedule 1 Model Constitution* (see <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au>) of the *NSW Government Department of Fair Trading*

Many clubs like our own struggle to assemble a majority of member votes for a vote on the constitution during one meeting or by postal vote. Either way we need to form and vote on our constitution. It would be good if everyone takes the opportunity to be informed and does his and her part by making an effort to vote on the new constitution. For a head start, you can find *Model Constitution* *here:*

http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Cooperatives_and_associations/Incorporating_an_association/About_the_constitution/Model_constitution.page

It is proposed that the committee will collect in a more or less personal way your vote, by approaching members personally, or requesting your vote when you next re-new your membership. This will be after it has been made available to you via the web site hard copies at meetings and/ or in direct consultation with members who like to support the effort in more detail. Please note you have the opportunity to read the constitution and decide for or against it. But do vote. It's your job as members to pass the constitution.

We trust that this will be the most effective way to get on with the job and like to thank you in advance for your support.

Word from the Apiary officer

I would like to thank my workers Janice, Ray, Alistair & Don for their help all day, the Club sold \$144.00 of the clubs Honey the second best year since we first started a stall at Riverfest Best 2007\$145.40 Club has sold honey at Riverfest since 2005.

Total bus money \$45 is due ASAP please.

Christmas Dinner Date November 18th \$40



Word from the Secretary

Tim's Garden Centre 29th August 2015

Ralph, Miskell and I went to Tim's Garden Centre to tell the community all about the importance of bees in their gardens.

I briefly explained how a hive worked and what each piece was for, including lighting the smoker and showing a few frames.

Miskell explained the importance of bees and pollination to agriculture and our food dependence.



We fielded many questions to a very enthusiastic audience. So much so that Tim has asked us back in March.

I would publically like to thank Tim and his staff for inviting us to share our passion of bees with him and his customers. We are sure that many people went home with an extra flowering plant in their possession!

Caroline Clatworthy





Sponsor of the month of August

From the Vice: Seasonal Beekeeping Activities

As the days are getting warmer and longer, the Queen's egg production is rapidly increasing. The brood nest is growing resulting in a larger colony. Make sure that your bees have enough room in the brood box, adding another if necessary.



You will now need to check your hives more frequently, (keeping an eye on the temperature so that you don't expose your bees for too long and not allow enough time for the hive to warm back up before the temperature drops at night) for queen cells and swarm prevention management such as removal of excess drone cells.

It is too early for checker plating at this point, allow your colony to expand for another month, or six frames of brood in an eight frame box.

Please check thoroughly for pests and diseases and if you are unsure, please contact one of our more experienced members to advise you.

You may already be harvesting honey, many members have reported having a full super.

Lastly, don't forget to keep written records of your inspections, they will help you with planning your beekeeping activities in future years.

Check out the bees in your garden, I found mine stuck into the nectarine blossom.

How about you get your camera out and send in your foraging photos. They may be uploaded to our website.

Diary Dates

Tamworth Branch Field Day

12th September 2015 Saturday NSW DPI Advisory Officer, Doug Somerville will be holding the Field day, at the Tamworth Agricultural Institute (DPI) 4 Marsden Park Road, Tamworth NSW 2340 Ray Hull on 0407 469 176, RSVP Norm Maher 0447603245 normmaher@hotmail.com

Club Meeting

16th September 2015 Wednesday 7:30pm, Power Point Presentation by Eddie Sijnstra

Publicity Activity

23rd and 24th September 2015 10am – 3pm, Schools visit to the Centre for Sustainable Living Mount Annan. See Alistair, Miskell or Caroline if you wish to participate. It has been requested by the centre that you apply for a free volunteer working with children check.

<http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check>

Twilight Markets

25th September 3:30 to 8:30 pm Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living

Beginning in Bees Course Sutherland, 26th September 2015 club@beekeepersutherland.org.au

To Bee or Not to Bee

1 October 2015 Bruce White Time: 06.30 PM to 07.45 PM

Location: Australian Museum entry via William Street Admission: Members \$20, non-Members \$30 - See more at: <http://australianmuseum.net.au/>

Field Day

3rd October 21015 Saturday 9am at Club Apiary, weather permitting contact Anthony 0412 577 828 apiary@macbeekeepers.asn.au

Club Meeting

21st October 2015 Wednesday 7:30pm, Would you like to pick a topic for this meeting? Please contact Miskell 0437 913 831 vicepresident@macbeekeepers.asn.au

Total Beekeeping Field Day

24th October 2015 Saturday Hop on the bus with Anthony 0412577828 early bookings are recommended

Beekeeping for Backyards

31st October 2015 Macarthur Community College

Christmas Party Bohemian Restaurant Narellan

18 November 2015 Details from Anthony 0412577828 booking and pre-payment is required.