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### Next ABACC Meeting

Tuesday 21st February at  
Erina Trust Community Hall  
**6:00pm** Beginning in Bees  
**7:00pm** Special General Meeting  
**7:10pm** General Meeting  
**7:45pm** DPI Briefing on  
Varroa Mite Emergency on  
the Central Coast.

### Newsletter

Deadlines for submissions:  
Classified Advertisements:  
1st of the month.  
Articles, photos and other  
contributions: 5th of the  
month – earlier if possible.

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Department of  
Primary Industries

## DPI Briefing Varroa Mite Emergency on the Central Coast

A team of experts from the DPI — Varroa  
Emergency Response Team will be present at  
our Club meeting

on

Tuesday 21st February  
at Erina Trust Hall, Karalta Road, Erina

### The team will include:

**Lloyd Kingham** — Varroa Response Planning Officer

**Nathan Cutter** — Wild European Honey Bee  
Management Program Leader

**Jodie Magner and Jamie Pery Meijer** — Response  
Resilience Officers  
and others.

The Team will provide an update on the  
current situation on the CC including  
eradication and surveillance, details of  
the management of wild honey bee  
populations and more.

The evening will be filmed and be  
available on YouTube within a few days.  
You will be notified of the link.





## Dear Members,

The New Year is well underway and life returns to its more regular patterns. Sadly, the festive season has not been very festive for many beekeepers on the Central Coast. Notification of a Varroa Infected Property in Tumby Umbi in early December changed things for many of our members. Beekeepers from Toukley to Kincumber have had to face the eradication of their hives. By the time you receive this newsletter, most will have been destroyed.

Then in mid January came further sad news. Another infected property has been detected approximately 5kms further south of the original. This latest detection has impacted beekeepers as far down as Davis Town and Copacabana. When will this end?

I extend my personal sympathies and that of the ABACC Committee to all who have lost their beloved hives. A majority of the committee are among those who have lost their hives either in the first round or these current rounds of eradication. The few of us who survive watch the emails fearing the news that our hives will soon join those already euthanised.

It is difficult to know where to lead the club in such challenging times. Various members of the committee have been in touch with some of those affected. But with a club of over 260 members, it is difficult to contact everyone individually. As a committee we realise that this is a time for 'small steps' as we come to grips with ongoing developments.

The visit of senior **DPI Varroa Response and Resilience officers** to our club meeting on Tuesday 21st February is an important starting point. We hope you will be there. A time for questions and answers will be on the program.

You will observe that this newsletter is much shorter and has less content than usual. With the current situation, it seems inappropriate to us to be publishing instructive articles when so many have lost everything.

In addition, the current newsletter journal format of recent years will be reduced to once every three months. In the intervening months we will publish any relevant information and club notices. We feel this is more appropriate to the current situation.

I look forward to seeing you at our first club meeting of the year on February 21st. Please read the included notices so that you are familiar with what is happening.

Happy Beekeeping

**Gavin — President**





At the ABACC General Meeting held at Erina Trust Hall on Tuesday 15th November, members present agreed 'in principle' with the following resolution:

***That the name of Amateur Beekeepers Association – Central Coast Branch Incorporated be changed to Central Coast Beekeepers Association Incorporated to be know as Central Coast Beekeepers.***

Since that meeting we have become aware that to formalise the change of name, we need to conduct a **Special General Meeting** with appropriate notifications to all members at least 3 weeks prior to the meeting. Accordingly, we have already given notice in the December newsletter and by email of a **Special General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 7:00pm at the Erina Trust Hall, Corner of Karalta Road and Ilya Avenue, Erina** to formalise the proposed change of name.

As outlined at recent meetings, there are a number of reasons behind this proposal:

1. Our peak body that was previously know as Amateur Beekeepers Association earlier this year changed its name to **Amateur Beekeepers Australia** moving from being a state based organisation to a national organisation. As an affiliated club, we are required to change our name accordingly.
2. **The ABA does not have branches.** Both the ABA and our club are independently incorporated associations under the NSW Department of Fair Trading – Associations Incorporation Act. Since the ABA does not have branches, we have been requested by the ABA to remove the 'branch' aspect of our name.
3. **As an 'Affiliated Club'** we have a loose affiliation with the ABA that does not require us to keep a commonality of name. There are many clubs similarly affiliated with the ABA known by [their location] Beekeepers for example 'Northern Beaches Beekeepers.'
4. **As part of the ABA changes,** we have been barred from using the logo (Bee on the map of NSW) that we have used for many years. Accordingly we are in the process of having a new logo designed by a talented local graphic designer.
5. **The constituency of our club** has changed over recent years. In earlier days we were simply a group of amateur beekeepers and so the name was appropriate. These days our membership has expanded to include a number of semi-commercial and commercial beekeepers. In the interest of greater inclusivity, we believe the proposed name is more in keeping with the constituency of the club.

For these, and no doubt other reasons, and after the agreement in principle at the November club meeting, the committee now formally sets forward the proposed change of name that more reflects our club in the current season. Many of us already refer to the club as Central Coast Beekeepers in casual conversation. Our Facebook page is entitled Central Coast Bees. Our web URL is [centralcoastbees.org](http://centralcoastbees.org).

We ask members to be present to vote on this motion. If you have any questions or comments, please email the president on [president@centralcoastbees.org](mailto:president@centralcoastbees.org).



## Club Notices

### Attendance at the ABA Annual General Meeting

After cancellation in November, the ABA has rescheduled their AGM for Sunday 12th February 2023. A team of 4 from the club committee will attend as representatives for the club. We know of at least one other member who plans to attend in a personal capacity.

The committee remain committed to continuing to explore our relationship with the ABA and understanding the dynamics of this season in the organisation. We will keep members updated on developments

### Club Meeting Dates:

February: Tuesday 21st February at 7:00pm

March: Tuesday 21st March at 7:00pm

April: Tuesday 18th April at 7:00pm

### Natural and Native Beekeeping Discussion Group

The Natural and Native Beekeeping Discussion Group meets at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Tasman Rooms at Mingara Recreational Club, Tumby Umbi. The group is led by Barry Eslick. For further details contact Barry on 0414 769 337

### The Club Apiary

The new apiary site at **Bells at Kilcare** is operating well. The hives are in good health and bringing in lots of honey. Thankfully the hives remain outside the current Varroa Mite eradication zone.

Our club apiarists, are hopeful of a harvest in the near future as we prepare for the Central Coast Regional Show in April.

The club deeply appreciates all the work that Michael and Marleen put into our club apiary.



### Club Loan Equipment:

**Due to the current DPI restrictions on the movement of beekeeping equipment, the clubs loan equipment is not available for use by members. We regret this situation but we have no option but to follow the DPI regulations.**



## Box and Frame Building Workshops

Club Quartermaster, Bruce Main, is willing to conduct impromptu Box and Frame Building Workshops for members who would like to learn the required skills. These workshops are for limited numbers and can be scheduled to suit both Bruce and those who would like to participate. There is not cost to be part of one of these workshops. Please email Bruce at [bhv.main@gmail.com](mailto:bhv.main@gmail.com) to indicate your interest and times when you may be available.

## Total College — Online Varroa Mite Training.

Total College has a free 'Online Varroa Mite Training Course' available to all interested parties.

This course has been developed to provide online Varroa mite training in line with the eligibility requirements for a movement permit for beekeepers in NSW. On successful completion of this course you will receive a certificate which is a step required to complete your application for a movement permit. A permit will not be issued without this certificate being completed.

The course may be accessed at [www://courses.tocal.nsw.edu.au](http://www://courses.tocal.nsw.edu.au) and search for 'Varroa Mite Online Training'. This course will take approximately 30-45minutes to complete and is a valuable resource for all beekeepers.

## Beekeeping Publications available

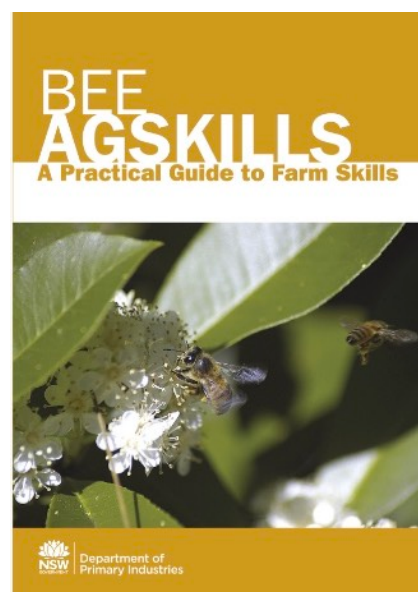
The club has stocks of quality publications by the Department of Primary Industries on beekeeping.

*Bee Agskills: A Practical Guide to Farm Skills  
— Beekeeping*

*AgGuide: A Practical Handbook — Healthy  
Bees: Managing pests, diseases and other  
disorders of the honey bee.*

**Cost: \$15 each — a saving of \$10.**

Available at the sign in desk at forthcoming club meetings.





OFFICE	NAME	Email Address
<b>Voting Positions</b>		
<b>President</b>	Gavin WILLIAMS	<a href="mailto:president@centralcoastbees.org">president@centralcoastbees.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Jack DUNN	<a href="mailto:membership@centralcoastbees.org">membership@centralcoastbees.org</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Hart PETERS	<a href="mailto:secretary@centralcoastbees.org">secretary@centralcoastbees.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gordon FOSTER	<a href="mailto:treasurer@centralcoastbees.org">treasurer@centralcoastbees.org</a>
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Nickole MARSDEN	<a href="mailto:nicole.marsden@gmail.com">nicole.marsden@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bio Security Officer</b>	Max RAE	<a href="mailto:biosecurity@centralcoastbees.org">biosecurity@centralcoastbees.org</a>
<b>Club Apiary Officer</b>	Michael GRAHAM	<a href="mailto:mgbees53@gmail.com">mgbees53@gmail.com</a>
<b>Other Appointments</b>		
<b>Membership Officer</b>	Jack DUNN	<a href="mailto:membership@centralcoastbees.org">membership@centralcoastbees.org</a>
<b>Assistant Apiary Officer</b>	Marleen BAETEN	<a href="mailto:baetenmarleen@gmail.com">baetenmarleen@gmail.com</a>
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Bruce MAIN	<a href="mailto:bhv.main@gmail.com">bhv.main@gmail.com</a>
<b>Librarian</b>	Barry ESLICK	<a href="mailto:gipsyrobaz@hotmail.com">gipsyrobaz@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Catering Officer</b>	Michelle ARNOT	<a href="mailto:williamarnot@yahoo.com">williamarnot@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Vacant	



The Club Quartermaster, **Bruce Main**, carries a stock of basic beekeeping supplies available to Club members.

This service continues to be available despite Varroa restrictions as all items for sale are new and have not been in touch with bees.

<b>Hives</b>		
Boxes – 8 Frame (Unassembled) – Full Depth	Each	\$29.50
Boxes – 8 Frame (Unassembled – WSP	Each	\$24.50
Boxes – 8 Frame (Unassembled) – Ideal	Each	\$22.00
Boxes – 10 Frame (Unassembled) – Full Depth	Each	\$31.00
Migratory Lids - 8 Frame (Unassembled)	Each	\$26.50
Migratory Lids - 10 Frame (Unassembled)	Each	\$24.00
Bottom Boards - 8 Frame (Unassembled)	Each	\$25.50
Bottom Boards - 10 Frame (Unassembled)	Each	\$23.00
Metal Queen Excluder - 8 Frame	Each	\$24.50
Metal Queen Excluder - 10 Frame	Each	\$25.00
<b>Frames</b>		
Frames (unassembled) - Full Depth	Bundle of 10	\$18.00
Frames (unassembled) - WSP	Bundle of 10	\$20.00
Frames (unassembled) - Ideal	Bundle of 10	\$20.00
<b>Foundation Wax</b>		
Foundation Wax - Full Depth	per sheet	\$3.50
Foundation Wax - WSP	per sheet	\$2.55
Foundation Wax - Ideal	per sheet	\$2.00

<b>Tools and Accessories</b>		
Apithor (hive beetle trap)	Each	\$8.50
Bee Brush	Each	\$16.00
Cover End Vents (metal)	per set of 4	\$2.50
Emlocks (Hive Straps)	Each	\$11.50
Escape Boards (complete) - 8 Frame	Each	\$29.00
Eyelet Tool	Each	\$8.50
Eyelets - (Brass)	Pack of 500	\$13.00
Frame Lifter	Each	\$20.00
Framing Wire - (Stainless Steel)	500gm roll	\$21.50
Hive Tool	Each	\$19.00
Queen Catcher Clips - (Stainless Steel)	Each	\$8.50
<b>Containers and Labels</b>		
Glass Jars with Lids – (500gms)	Carton of 24	\$21.00
Honey Squeeze Bottles with caps – (500gms)	Pack of 12	\$10.20
Honey Tubs with Lids - (1kg)	Each	\$1.70
Labels - Club Honey Container Labels	Each label	\$0.65
Labels - 'Made in Australia'	Sheet of 126 labels	\$5.00

We have a **Wire Framing Jig and a Wax Embedder** (electric) available for club members to use on new equipment. Due to the current DPI restrictions on the movement of beekeeping equipment, Bruce is willing to assist members who are able to come to his home with **NEW AND UNUSED FRAMES AND FOUNDATION WAX** at a small cost of \$3.00 per use. Please email Bruce to arrange an appointment. Unfortunately, the equipment cannot leave Bruce's workshop.

**To order items or arrange an appointment** email Bruce at [bhv.main@gmail.com](mailto:bhv.main@gmail.com). Bruce will either prepare the order for pick up at Narara at a mutually, pre-arranged day and time or he can bring your order along to the next monthly club meeting. ALL ORDERS LODGED will be responded to on the same day providing the request is placed before 4:30pm. Orders placed after this time will be responded to the following day.

All sales are CASH ONLY. There is no Eftpos available for any purchases.

**NOTE: Please be aware, prices shown are to be used as a guide only and may vary without notice depending on Supplier cost variations.**





**From time to time, all beekeepers need access to a new queen. Perhaps your queen has mysteriously disappeared and left your hive's future in jeopardy. Perhaps you feel it is time to re-queen a hive or split a hive in order to expand your apiary or prepare a hive to give away. Whatever the reason, access to a quality young queen is crucial to the future of that hive.**

The current Varroa Mite Emergency has had a devastating impact on many queen breeders. Breeders in the purple zone are unable to supply queens. Breeders in the Blue Zone are able to supply into the Purple Zone.

The matter of posting of queens may also be an issue. Queen breeders whose postage track comes through the Newcastle Mail Exchange may not be able to send queens via mail due to current DPI restrictions. You will need to discuss this with the Breeder.

Do your best to anticipate your queen requirements in advance and speak to your chosen queen breeder ahead of your required date. If you know of other breeders who may be happy to have their name added to this list, please send their details to the editor at [editor@centralcoastbees.org](mailto:editor@centralcoastbees.org).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email /Phone</b>	<b>Variety</b>	<b>Price + Postage</b>
Jamie Baggs	0410 508 939	Italians	\$37.50 +P&H To ABACC Members
Charlie & Brenda Casido	0434 353 301 <a href="mailto:info@australianqueenbeeline.com.au">info@australianqueenbeeline.com.au</a>	Italians & Carniolans	\$32 + P&H
Patrick Carroll	0427 018 850	Italians	\$35 +\$10 P&H
David Vial	0424 064 737	Italians & Carniolans	\$35 + P&H
Ross Woods	0421 817 710	Italians	\$30 + P&H



The following members of the ABACC are willing to assist those who are less experienced in beekeeping:

Name	Contact No	Area
Barbara Elkins	0419 742 388	Bateau Bay, Long Jetty
Martin Roberts	0409 361 905	Mountain Plateau
Jon King	0419 995 158	Empire Bay, Kincumber, MacMasters Beach Copacabana, Kilcare
Marleen Baeten	0421 175 892	Empire Bay and Surrounds
Brian Sawyer	0418 965 630	Avoca, Copacabana, Macmasters Beach, Kincumber
Bruce Main	4324 6284	Narara to Ourimbah, Erina, Greenpoint,

**The following guidelines need to be kept in mind when requesting the assistance of the mentors:**

1. It is the personal responsibility of all beekeepers to develop a growing understanding of the art of beekeeping and the management of our hives. This will include:
  - Attending club meetings, educational sessions, training workshops and field days.
  - Reading books from the club library and our club Newsletter.
  - Viewing some of the many hours of helpful instructional material available on YouTube and related sites.
  - Enrolling in courses offered by the DPI or the Club outside of club meetings.
2. Club mentors are not personal beekeeping assistants who can drop everything and come to your immediate aid or be available on an ongoing basis. They are available for an occasional chat or perhaps a site visit by prior arrangement. Any involvement beyond the above is at the discretion of the mentor.
3. Our mentors have private lives that may include family and work commitments, their own apiary requirements and other responsibilities. They offer their assistance as mentors in addition to these commitments. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of a mentor's knowledge and skill needs to respect those personal commitments.
4. There may be times when personal or other commitments are such that a mentor cannot give the assistance you seek or in a time when you need that assistance. Please respect their decision. Remember that they have the right to say 'No!'
5. When seeking the assistance of a mentor, send them an SMS first to seek a good time to call. This shows a respect for their personal commitments. They may not be in a position to return your call for a day or two.
6. If the mentor you have called is unable to assist, there are other names on the mentor list. Try another mentor.