# CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

### Inside this Issue:

- ABACC President's Report
- ABACC Apiarist Report
- ✤ Who am I?
- Just one person's experience with a Flow Hive?
- Native Beehive Splitting Process
- Show Honey Tips and Tricks!
- Pest & Disease Profile-European Foul Brood
- ApiBioxal (Oxalic Acid) Summary
- Club Activities
- Share A Little!
- ✤ For Sale Notices
- ✤ ABACC Club Notices
- ✤ ABACC Club Meeting Dates 2025
- ✤ ABACC Committee Members
- ABACC Club Equipment for Sale
- ✤ ABACC Loan Equipment
- ✤ ABACC Club Library

Next ABACC Meeting Wednesday 26th of February 2025 at: Erina Trust Community Hall, 27 Karalta Road, Erina. Commencing 7pm Beginning in bees' session commences at 6pm.

**Contributions for newsletter:** Please send any stories or anything you wish to share to the editor to the below email address.

Email Address: secretary@centralcoastbees.org



# WELCOME TO JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER!

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to the first edition of the club newsletter for 2025! Hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and are gearing up for the year ahead.

# The first newsletter for 2025, it's a big one!!! It is so full of beekeeping information you may have to read it in two stages!

Don't forget no question is a stupid question! Send me any questions you may have, and I will seek out the answer. I can then share them in the newsletter, as someone else in the club may have wanted to know but was too afraid to ask. Don't worry, you can remain anonymous if you prefer!

In the last edition of the newsletter, we looked at using the eduction method of duplicating our native bee hives. This month I will go through the splitting of a native hive, as taught by Dr Alexander Austin who is the Environmental Programs Officer for Hornsby Ku-ring-gai council, and who runs the Native Bee Program for them.

As I touched briefly on European Foul Brood (EFB) when looking at American Foul Brood (AFB) last newsletter, I will expand on EFB this month.

Who are we getting to know in this newsletter? Read the "Who Am I?" profile on page four to find out!

There's a summary of Sandra Rae's Show honey tips and tricks to make your show entries a cut above the rest!

Also, since I have been asked so many times myself, I decided to look at the pros and cons of owning a flow hive! Regardless of whether you are a lover or a hater of these hives, it is always better to make an informed decision!

### All of this and more!

Don't forget that I would love any input or suggestions for future newsletters. If you have a great story or photo, passionate about a beekeeping related subject you would like covered or just have a great recipe to share, then PLEASE send it to the secretary email and it will be featured in the next newsletter.



So, sit back, with a cuppa or a cool relaxing beverage and catch up on a great read!

*Sherrie Smith* (Editor)

Page **1** of **32** 



### Hi All,

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2025!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and celebrated new year with your families and friends.

We should hopefully all be harvesting some honey from our hives now and getting comfortable with inspections and treatments.

We will be continuing our presentations this year and hope to get some practical workshops running as well.

Stay safe for the remainder of the holiday period and I look forward to seeing you all again at our first meeting at Erina Trust Hall, on the 26th of February.



Hart Peters (President)



### Hi Members,

As we pass into the new year, we leave the troubles of the past behind. We endured multiple swarms, Queens not returning, not enough Drones and then too many Drones. Some areas were hit with Hive Beetle and other areas had hardly any at all. Then abundant nectar flow and then not a drop.

So, this year should settle down.

The Club Apiary is now close to full capacity, with only a Topbar hive to activate. Our Warre hive started with one of the biggest swarms I have ever picked up and is now 3 boxes high. All the other hives are strong and doing well, with the honey removal being completed the week before Xmas and another planned for the near future.



The Club's new shipping container proved an asset for the honey extraction and the Club will have enough honey to sell at the Gosford show.

We have planned a frame and box building workshop at the Ag Farm at Gosford on Sunday the 2nd of February 2025. Help would be appreciated as we need 6 new boxes, and 50 frames assembled for the club apiary. This is also a great opportunity to bring your own gear for assembly on the day, especially for the new beekeepers who can get great tips and tricks from those of us who have a little more experience. Happy beekeeping in 2025!!!!



Michael Graham (Apiary Officer)



# MAX RAE

Role in the club: ABACC Biosecurity Officer Suburb I live in: Matcham Member of the club: October 2016

# My beekeeping journey

I first started to be interested in bees in the early 2000s when we lived in Germany. While walking through the Wald (German forest) and seeing how the local beekeepers had their hives under roof structures, looked interesting.



When we returned to Australia my wife Sandra, insisted I needed to have a hobby, so I took up beekeeping. I started out with my good friend Len Vehrenkamp with 2 Nuc hives each, that we purchased from a local beekeeper.

We spent the next few weeks making boxes and frames and the colonies quickly expanded into full hives within the first few months. We soon thought hmmm, we need more hives! So, within the first year we had 20! This now meant we needed more gear, more stuff, and a bigger extractor.

In my second year we were fortunate enough to win big at the RAS (Royal Easter Show), with the honey our hives had produced from our local area. Best small producer, best in show, first for the light honey and multiple other wins.

My hobby quickly turned into a passion, even to the point of an obsession. I studied up on all things beekeeping and the hive numbers just kept increasing to over 100.

During this time, I was offered a position at Tocal collage teaching beekeeping, and this gave me access to commercial beekeepers. They showed me how they operate on a large scale to make a living which can be very different to recreational beekeepers. I picked up a lot of knowledge and skills very quickly.

Unfortunately, as we all now know, Varroa mites were detected in 2022, and the plan then was for eradication. As a result of this, all my hives were euthanised.

When we were allowed to have bees back again on the coast, my plan in the first season was



to watch and see how we were going to manage Varroa in the red zone. Well that all went by the wayside very quickly. The first season's spring, I had 4 hives and say No More! This year, my second season, I now have 40+ hives and still say No More.

It's hard to not have bees when it's your passion!!!

Thank you, Max, for sharing your beekeeping journey!



I couldn't tell you the number of times I have been asked what do you think of the flow hive? So, I decided that I would consider it a little more to try and help those beekeepers that are trying to decide which way to go at the beginning of their beekeeping journey.

Neil and I started out with a flow hive and then upgraded to a second the following year. Prior to our hives being destroyed during the Varroa Mite eradication attempt, we had 12 Langstroth hives and our 2 flow hives. I see there are both advantages and disadvantages of the flow hives and the Langstroth hives that we manage, as discussed below.

### **EXTRACTING HONEY**

Extracting honey from a flow hive is much easier! You just must turn the key into the frame which opens the cell, and the



honey starts to flow out. Whilst this is much easier than opening the whole hive, and less bees perish, you still need to be careful. When we extract from our flow hive it takes time. Unless you want to stand there for a long time with all your jars, you must cover the tube and container in a way so that the bees don't try and rob the honey. We strain our honey into a bowl as it doesn't matter how much you, try a couple of bees will get into the honey and you don't want them in your jar. Also, we had a tea towel drop into the bowl and then the honey overflowed onto the ground, which was heart breaking to see, such a waste! I have seen a great option on the internet, which is pictured, which I thought I would try and replicate with a correct size tube into a lidded bucket, as shown in pictures below.





When you extract your flow frames you can get a small amount of honey draining into the hive, approximately 1-2 teaspoon. This is usually cleaned up by the bees and not an issue. The amount of honey leakage can be influenced by the way the bees cap the cells, so to ensure the safety of the brood box it is recommended that you only drain a couple of frames at a time. This also ensures that the bees have enough honey for themselves.

In the beginning we would get approximately 3kg of honey out of each frame, but as the years went on, we would only get just over 2 kgs as the cells get smaller each time the bees fill it. To fix this you must drain the frames, remove them and clean them out. Flow Hive recommends that you only need to clean frames if there is disease or mould, but this was not our experience. Below is a link on how Flow Hive recommends cleaning your frames.

Do I need to clean the Flow Frames?

One of the great advantages of extracting from flow frames is being able to extract a specific flavour of honey. Bees forage on a wide variety of flowering plants and tend to fill cells frame by frame. You will see that each frame can be a slightly different colour. In spring our bees feed on the eucalyptus trees and it's the only time of year that our honey is so clear. When we extract from the Langstroth hives, unless we sort out specific frames into colours, the different flavours will blend. With the flow hive, I can just extract the frames that have the colour/ flavour I am after, without mixing with the other ones.



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### **PLASTIC FLOW HIVE FRAMES**

I know there are lots of discussions about plastic inside a bee hive and I have attached the link below where the flow hive company has discussed it. I am going to share how the plastic flow frames affect the bees. In the beginning we couldn't just put the flow frames on and expect the bees to love them. To overcome this hurdle, we got some old wax and propolis, melted it down to a liquid and painted it onto the frames. The bees loved it! Soon after we started to see the bees filling it with their gorgeous honey!

### What are the advantages of the Flow Hive? - Flow Hive AU

Another advantage of the flow frame is that you get an idea when the frames are ready to harvest, without entering the hive. You can pull the inspection window at the back of the hive off and see if all the levels of a single frame are full of honey. Once a frame was full, we would wait a few days to ensure that they had capped them off and see if they had started to fill the next frame. This would indicate the first



frame was ready to harvest. We kept notes of what frames we harvested and didn't keep taking the same ones. If we weren't 100% sure the frame was fully capped, we would open the hive and lift the frame to check.



One disadvantage of the plastic flow frame is you never want it to come apart!! What a nightmare! There is a video on how to do this on the link below but set aside a significant part of your life you will never get back, unless you love puzzles. Good luck!!



### How do I reassemble a Flow Frame?



### THE INSPECTION WINDOW

The flow hive comes with an inspection window on the side that can be removed to view the bees working through a clear window. Not only is this fascinating to watch but it gives you a small idea on how many bees are on the frame. If it is covered in bees then it seems they are doing well, but if we only found a couple we would investigate why.

### FLOW FRAMES OVER WINTER

Due to the climate on the central coast we never had to remove our flow frames over winter. We always made sure the bees had 4 out of the 6 flow frames full for their supplies. If the winter was a mild winter, we could harvest honey later if there were winter flowering plants they were feeding on.

If you wanted to take the flow frames off over winter, toward the end of spring you could put a regular honey super on top and wait till it has enough full frames of honey to leave on over winter. Then you can



drain the flow frames, leave a day or 2 for the bees to clean them up, then take off the flow super. If you are concerned about leaking honey, you can harvest the frames off the hive, making sure you have something underneath to catch the leaking honey.

To store your Flow Frames, wash them in warm to hot water and allow them to dry thoroughly before storing them in a cool, dry, dark (*The Flow Frame plastic is UV sensitive*) location for the winter.

### COST

The flow hive is much more expensive than a conventional 2 box Langstroth box and frames.

The price of a flow hive ranges from \$679 (hybrid box with only 3 flow frames) - \$1,179 depending on what model you are looking at. The Flow Hive Classic which is the entry model which includes all flow honey super frames in the top box and 8 brood frames in the brood box is \$879.

I compared this to an 8 frame Langstroth set-up with 2x 8-frame boxes, 1 plastic queen excluder, 1 ventilated base, 1 pigeon roof, 1 escape board and x16 unassembled frames (wire and eyelets not included) which came to \$274. I priced boxes and frames as unassembled as they do not come assembled with the flow hive. You can reduce this cost depending on if you want a flat roof or non-ventilated base and increase it if you purchased assembled frames.

SO, there is **approximately** \$600 difference between the two set-ups and wax foundation of \$40 is an additional expense, if you wish to use it instead of having the bees build their own comb from scratch. Neither of these will be painted so you will need to give them 2 coats of good quality paint to protect them from the weather.

The other cost you need to consider is the honey extraction equipment needed for the Langstroth honey frames. This can be a little or a lot depending on what type of equipment you go for. We started with a plastic bucket honey spinner then invested in a 3 frame metal extractor which was a larger expensive. But you can also borrow extraction equipment through the club, which would negate this expense.

### **TO SUMMARISE**

In my opinion both the Flow Hive and the Langstroth Hive set-ups have both advantages and disadvantages when producing honey. When we first got our bees back, we didn't go straight to the flow frames till we worked out how we were going to manage the varroa mite. Now we are clearer on this management, we have just put our flow frames back on and can't wait to see these amazing bees fill the frames.

If you are toying with the idea of spending money on a flow hive, do some research as the flow hive website has a lot of information. I have put a few links below including the link to the flow hive Australia home page. Whichever hive you decide to purchase, enjoy your beekeeping journey and beware its addictive!!!

### **Useful Links:**

<u>Honey Straight From The Beehive | Australian Made & Invented</u> (Flow Hive Website) <u>Difference between a Flow Hive and a Langstroth. - Flow Hive AU</u> <u>Beginner Beekeeping Questions - Flow Hive FAQs</u> How do I prepare my Flow Hive for winter?



Sherrie Smith, October 2024



Last newsletter I spoke about the Eduction Method of duplicating a Tetragonula carbonaria native beehive. This edition I will talk about how to split a native beehive into two.

### When is the best time to split your hive?

The best time to split your hive is Spring or early Summer. Generally, you would not split a hive after November. If the beehive box was ruined you could do a cut out to give it a new box, but not split the hive. Consider does the weather forecast look like there might be periods of unseasonal rain or low temperatures in the coming week/weeks? Or a heat wave expected? If so, best to hold off.

Also did you plan on wanting to harvest honey from this hive soon? If so, it is best not to split a hive and harvest at the same time, do one this season and the other next.

Splitting the hive in the morning allows everything to be done before things warm up as the bees don't like direct sunlight on their hive and heat can cause the hive structure to melt. It also gives you the day to observe the hive and make sure everything has gone smoothly.

### **Equipment List**

- Compatible empty hive (which matches the inside and outside size of your existing hive)
- Hive tool
- Rubber Mallet
- Knife
- Tape (masking)
- Scales
- Gloves/Head Net
- Pure Gum Turps
- Entrance tubes
- Saw (for polystyrene boxes only)
- Cloth/wipes



### **Standard Splitting Procedure**

### 1. Determine whether the hive is ready

### Assess the weight of the hive

• What we are looking for is 2.5-3kgs of nest mass inside. If we know the weight of the empty hive, we will be able to understand the size of the nest mass. For example, if your empty hive weights 5 kilograms, what we would want to see is a total weight of 7.5-8 kilograms before deciding if it is a good time to split to another hive.

Look at forager activity

• In favourable conditions (warm, sunny day <20 degrees) 30 to 60 bees coming or going over a minute.

• Take note of where the hive's entrance is! Is the entrance on the top or bottom box and which way is the box facing? You will need to remember this when you put the newly split hive back, so the foragers know where to come back to.

### 2. Get the new box ready

Create a propolis/resin ring around new hive half entrance, on the inside of box. If you do not have any resin, you may be able to scrape it off the box you are splitting when you clean the edges (as discussed in step 5). Add on the hive entrance tube, if you wish to use it as this is optional, and seal the entrance that the bees will not be using with tape till they seal it themselves.



Hive entrance tube



Propolis ring

### 3. Break the seal between the hive sections

Remove any tape and use the hive tool gently on each corner, to 'pop' open the hive. You should hear a gentle popping noise as the resin they've sealed the hive with separates.

### Cut through hive corners

Take the knife and gently cut through the corners on opposite sides. Do not cut all the way through into the brood chamber, as this will damage the brood. If you have split bars in your colony, this step may not be necessary.

### 4. Separate the two hive sections and confirm the hive is ready

Slowly and gently, lever the top half of the hive away from the bottom. Watch the separation of the brood structure, ideally wanting an even split. If it is roughly even, leave it to separate itself and keep in mind the spiral pattern of the Tetragonula carbonaria, one half will look less full, this is ok.

If it needs some help coming apart, you can gently (using fingers or knife) separate the brood structure. Older brood comb (e.g. pupal comb) is easier to separate than younger comb (eggs and larvae). It is not advisable to manually separate the younger part of the comb. You are better off closing it back up and coming back to it in a few weeks if you are really keen to split it. If there is no separation of the brood contents do not feel pressured to continue with the split.

If the advancing front is small but otherwise the hive is full, you can transfer some of the older brood from the other half if you feel comfortable doing so.











Visually inspect hive. Inspect contents and identify queen/queen cells, if possible, particularly in the half without fresh brood. Refrain from splitting if the hive does not look ready (i.e. not full/healthy) even if the hive passed the weight and activity assessment above. Reseal if not ready or if you are unsure!

**From top left to right**. *Small advancing front*. *Removing a layer of older brood from top half. Close up of pupal comb. Older comb placed on top of the small advancing front*.

### 5. Apply empty hive half

Prior to joining boxes, pour off any spilt honey into a container through a sieve or directly into a garbage bag, if you don't intend to keep it. Scrape resin/propolis and wipe up any spilt hive contents (honey/pollen) from the edges of the full halves, to ensure the fresh halves fit seamlessly. The resin scraped can be used to make a resin ring around the new hive entrance as discussed in step 2, you did not have any available.

Align the old and new box, ensuring the advancing front does not get crushed by the new box and therefore damages the brood. Ensure you wipe split hive contents from the sides of the box, to limit pest attraction.



Shows resin build up on joining surfaces. This needs to be removed to ensure tight seam between the old and new hive

### 6.Secure the hive halves

Make sure the new entrance is on the opposite side. i.e. If the old entrance is at the front on the old box, position the entrance at the back and place tape over it to prevent pests entering hive, till the bees can seal it off.

Seal the halves together thoroughly with masking tape to protect the hive from pests entering, until the bees have been able to seal the joins again. YOU MUST REMOVE THE TAPE in 4 weeks, to prevent water collecting under the tape and rotting the box!!!



### 7. Where to place the freshly made hives

### You have 2 options:

**a).** Put the hive you are taking away (the hive that has the queen), in the place where the old hive was positioned for 5 minutes, to catch as many forager bees as possible. When you have collected some forager bees, replace this box with the hive you are leaving. The hive that you are removing, (the queened hive), needs to be taken at least 2km for a period of 4 weeks.

**b).** Place the hives side by side (you can leave it there for up to 3 weeks) and you can move the hive at night time **half a metre** towards the intended new location. Wait 1-2 days and repeat the process until at the new location.

You can also leave the hive that you take away closed for up to a week (as long as it is sealed with mesh). They don't need to forage, so it gives them time to make repairs and stops any pests getting inside whilst they're cleaning up. If the hive gets a swarm around it (i.e. requeening) then you can let them out early.

### PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A SPLIT OF A HIVE THAT IS NOT IN A FOAM BOX OR ONE THAT NEEDS TO BE CUT OUT OF A BOX. IF YOU THIS SITUATION, PLEASE CONTACT ME, TO GET SOME MORE EXPERIENCED HELP AS THIS IS A MORE INVOLVED PROCESS! SEE THE HIVE SPLIT IN THE CLUB ACTIVITIES SECTION OF THE NEWSLETTER!



←Tetragonula Carbonaria Queen Bee





Mouldy hive that has died out

→ a. Tetragonula carbonaria Queen (princess) cell





References and links: 1. Dr Alexander Austin, Environmental Programs Officer, Ku-ring-gai Council.

- 2. ABecC Hives
- 3. Tim Heard, *The Australian Native Bee Book*, Maroochydore Australia, 2016.

Sherrie Smith, November 2024



SHOW HONEY TIPS AND TRICKS

A big Thank You to Sandra Rae for giving her show honey presentation at the November club meeting! Below is a summary of the presentation. NOTE All categories are scored out of a total score of 100. Numbers in brackets are the maximum score for each category.

# **LIQUID HONEY**

### Judging categories

Flavour (25)	Aroma (10)
<ul> <li>Personal choice</li> <li>Honey should be palatable, free from "tang" of fermentation and acidity.</li> <li>No smoke flavour</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Honey with a pleasing aroma scores the highest points</li> <li>Should smell like honey</li> <li>Lift lid of jar, sweetest gains the highest points</li> <li>Should not be fermented or rancid.</li> </ul>
Colour (25)	Clearness (10)
For light category the lightest colour gains the highest score	<ul> <li>Honey must not have a dull or cloudy appearance</li> <li>Look under lid and bottom of jar, reduced points</li> </ul>
For dark category, the darkest colour gains the highest score	for impurities Also hold up to light reduced points for changes
<ul> <li>Medium is classed in the middle of the group or</li> </ul>	in dark/light through honey
checked by the Pfund grader.	Should be clean and have a sparkle
A Pfund honey grader can be used to grade honey, so it is in the right class	
Density (25)	Brightness (5)
Honey varies in density; highest points are awarded to the highest density.	Look through jar and read words through honey, the clearer gains more points
Density can be determined by rating the speed of air bubbles rising through the inverted jars.	Slightly warm the honey in the jars before showing to increase the brightness. This will remove any minute crystals.

### **Colour and Classes of Liquid Honey**

Pfund readings for the different classes have been decided as follows:

Very Light	0-15
Light	16-34
Medium	35-59
Dark	60-120



The club has a Pfund meter and members can have their honey tested to confirm colour class!

### Tips for harvesting show honey

- > Use a new frame with new foundation so that the honey is stored in new comb
- Put the frames in the top box directly above the brood box to minimise bee traffic and keep the wax clean
- Try to extract after a period of hot weather as it should result in a denser honey
- Minimise aeration during extraction
- Place quickly into sealed containers to prevent moisture absorption

### Tips for preparing your show honey

- > Extract carefully to minimise contamination and wax
- > Fine sieve /double sieve to maximise clarity
- Show jars 500g glass round with white lids choose the best jars
- > Pour the honey down the inside edge of the jar to minimize air bubbles.
- All jars in an entry should be filled to the same level for uniformity with the honey just below the inside of the cap.
- Settling helps bring any impurities to the surface where it can be removed before submitting your entry.
- Store the filled jars in a dark location to minimise colour change.
- Print and READ THE SCHEDULE
- Make sure you are entered in the correct category
- More information can be found on the RAS website <u>National Honey</u>

# **GRANULATED/ CANDIED HONEY**

### Judging categories

<b>Evenness of grain (30)</b> Classes can be fine or coarse grain. In the case of fine grain, the granules should be fine and almost indistinguishable to the palate and tongue with all the grains even.	Flavour (30) Personal preference of the judge	
	Firmness (30) The mix should set firm but be easy to spread	
	Colour (10)	
	white to cream	



General requirements are similar to liquid honey. Major importance is the texture of the granulation and firmness of set.



# **CREAMED HONEY**

- Fine grained starter must be used, such as fine grained granulated honey, or save some of the previous batch of the honey you creamed.
- > The point score is similar to granulated honey.
- > The colour should be as white as possible.
- > There should be no separation.

# **CHUNK HONEY**

### Appearance

- Mid rib of comb should be straight (4)
- In centre of jar (4)
- Comb not candied (4)
- White cappings (3)
- All capped (3)
- No bits of wax (3)
- Check both sides of comb
- Presentation (4)
- Comb same floral types as the liquid honey in the jar

### Colour

Lighter the honey the higher score

# FRAMED/ COMB HONEY

Comb must be new and brood free. The frames are best drawn from above the brood chamber with the

hive fitted with a queen excluder. This reduces the amount of pollen likely to be in the comb.

### Fullness (30)

Highest points are awarded to combs that are well drawn out.

### **Colour of the capping (30)**

Capping should be whitish in colour

### Evenness (20)

All cells that are capped should be even with no depression on the comb surface, capping should all be the same colour, indicating the honey in the comb is from the same floral type. Honey flow that produces light coloured honey is preferred.

### **General Appearance (20)**

- The entry should be attractive. Entries must be shown in a bee proof wooden display case with glass or Perspex sides. Display cases can be purchased to hold a single frame from Beekeeping Equipment Manufactures.
- > Tape can be applied to hide the frame edges

Appearance	25
Colour	25
Flavour	20
Density	20
Clearness	10
TOTAL	100







BEESWAX		MEAD
<ul> <li>Colour (25)</li> <li>➢ Depends on the class, i.e. "white" scores highest for whitest.</li> <li>➢ If yellow, it should look like butter.</li> </ul>	General appearance (20)➤ Evenness (4)➤ Smoothness (4)➤ Neatness of cut (4)➤ Evenness of colour (4)➤ Presentation (4)	<ul> <li>Flavour (50)</li> <li>&gt; must taste like mead/honey flavour</li> <li>Aroma (20)</li> <li>&gt; must smell with an alcohol base</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Clearness (25)</li> <li>➢ Should not have impurities such as propolis</li> <li>➢ Pay particular attention to the bottom of the block for impurities</li> </ul>	Tenacity (20) ➤ Higher score for "plastic" bending lowest score for brittle and hard	<ul> <li>Appearance (20)</li> <li>&gt; must be clear, not cloudy or have sediment</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Aroma (10)</li> <li>➢ It should smell like beeswax</li> <li>➢ Old wax does not have aroma, soy an aroma</li> <li>➢ Fresh is better</li> </ul>	wax does not have	<ul> <li>Mouthfeel (10)</li> <li>➤ Must not be acidic, tarty or leave a bod aftertaste</li> </ul>

# WAX CANDLES

- Wicks should be pre waxed!
- Candles are burnt for 1 hour / period of time to establish if the wick: wax ratio is correct. Candle should burn away.
- Candles should smell like beeswax



Appearance	25
Burn response	35
& wick	
Feel	10
Ease of lighting	10
Cleanliness	20
TOTAL	100

### Thank you to Sandra Rae for here valuable contribution!!!!

### **OUR NEW & LESS EXPERIENCED MEMBERS NEED YOU!!!**

Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge with people who share an interest? When our new and less experienced club members join, they often need a little help! So, if you are interested in being a resource person and could buddy up with a new member near you, please let us know. We may all be learning the new management strategies with

Varroa mite, but there is so much more to beekeeping than just varroa! You may already know the basics and that is what the less experienced need at the beginning of their journey. The committee members already do so much, and they need your help! If you can, please email your



name, contact number and the areas/postcodes you are willing to cover on the central coast to **secretary@centralcoastbees.org** 



## What is European Foul Brood (EFB)?

European foulbrood (EFB) is a brood disease caused by the bacterium *Melissococcus plutonius*. EFB was first detected in Australia in the late 1970s and since then it has spread and is now found in all states and territories except for WA and NT.

Larvae of all ages are susceptible to infection and become infected after ingesting food contaminated with the bacteria. The bacterium then multiples in the mid-gut of the larvae and competes for larval food, resulting in the larvae dying of starvation

### How does our hive get EFB?

Incidences of the disease are strongly correlated with climatic, nutritional and management stress factors. Cooler wet weather and poor nutrition can promote EFB symptoms. Bees can also be in poor condition and susceptible to EFB as a result of working pollen-deficient honey flow or shaking bees for package bee production. EFB remains in a vegetative cell state all the time and can remain viable for up to 3 years

### How and when to inspect hives for EFB

EFB is a reportable exotic disease to NSW Department of Primary Industries, under NSW legislation.

Brood combs should be thoroughly examined for EFB at least twice a year, preferably in spring and in autumn, although EFB can occur in hives year-round.

Always remove each brood frame from the colony and inspect them individually. Clear bees from the frame and examine closely it for symptoms, paying particular attention to the colour and appearance of larvae.

### Symptoms of EFB?

- EFB causes a range of symptoms. Typical symptoms include:
  - an uneven or patchy brood pattern.
  - dead and discoloured larvae in uncapped cells; in some circumstances larvae may die after capping.
  - infection with EFB may sometimes have a strong ammonia-like (sometimes described as sour) smell.

### Closer inspection of individual cells will show that:

- Infected larvae may have moved within the cell and sit in a coiled or twisted position (rather than sitting in the characteristic 'C' shape of healthy larvae).
- Dead larvae change colour from a healthy pearly white to yellow and then to a brown colour and become a liquefied mass (larvae appear molten in the cell) and a 'ropiness test' can be carried out at this stage of the disease cycle.



European foulbrood infected brood showing the characteristics of uncapped contorting brood. Rob Snyder, www.beeinformed.org

- The trachea of infected larvae may also appear a more prominent yellow colour as the larvae's colour changes.
- Over time the dead larvae will begin to dry out, becoming a dark brown coloured 'rubbery' scale that adheres loosely to the cell. This scale acts as a source of reinfection.

### How to conduct the Ropiness Test

Beekeepers should conduct the ropiness test to help differentiate between EFB and AFB. Carry out the test before the dead larvae dry out and reach the scale stage.

- Identify a suitable cell with EFB symptoms
- Push a matchstick into the cell then slowly withdraw the match
- If the drawn out remains only form a short (usually less than 1.5cm long) thread, then the disease is likely to be EFB
- A longer ropy thread (usually around 3–5 cm) more likely means AFB
- But, in advanced EFB infections, a secondary bacterium *Paenibacillus alvei* may infect cells and cause extra ropiness
- This makes EFB infected brood produce a longer thread, so it can be mistaken for AFB
- Look very closely for all symptoms of both diseases to clarify which infection is present

### Additionally, in EFB cases where the secondary infection is present:

- The larvae often lie stretched out lying on their backs on the lower walls of their cells.
- Their colour may be reddish brown
- Occasionally a tongue may be seen but these are not as fine a tongue as is characteristic of AFB, and rarely touch the cell roof

Even a trained eye can get the diagnosis wrong. The only accurate means to differentiate between EFB and AFB is through laboratory diagnostics. Any beekeeper who suspects EFB is present in their colonies, must notify NSW DPI within 24hrs of suspecting EFB by:

- Calling the Biosecurity Hotline 1800 680 244
- emailing <u>biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au</u>
- submitting an online form

Submitting a sample for lab analysis meets your reporting obligation. Click <u>HERE</u> to print the Bee Disease Diagnostic Specimen Advice Form to send with your sample

### **Treatment for EFB**

The bacterium is only treatable by antibiotics when the disease is multiplying in the bee larvae. EFB is highly contagious, and all stages of developing larvae are susceptible to infection.

Beekeepers may only treat colonies that show signs of EFB and have a positive diagnosis. If more than 10% of the colonies in an apiary show signs of the disease, all colonies could be considered for treatment.

The only antibiotic recommended for the treatment of EFB is oxytetracycline hydrochloride (OTC). Four products are registered in NSW for use on honey bees.

- Bayer, Tetravet 100 soluble antibiotic powder
- > Agricon, Tetracin 100 soluble powder
- > Agricon, Tetracin 10 soluble powder 20 kg
- > Specialised Bee Med. Broodmix for the treatment of European brood disease in bees (Melissococcus pluton)

These medications are available on prescription from a veterinarian. The protocols for a veterinarian to issue an order to supply OTC can be found on the DPI Primefact sheet, link listed in references at bottom of article.



European foulbrood ropiness. H Shimanuki



American foulbrood ropiness. Sam Malfroy

While there may be times when antibiotic treatment is the only answer, the practice is becoming increasingly less attractive because of the possibility of honey contamination and the development of resistant strains of EFB. To minimise the possibility of antibiotic residues in honey, the antibiotic must not be applied to colonies within eight weeks of any anticipated honey extraction. Any surplus honey should be removed before treatment.

### **Good Beekeeping Practices to prevent EFB**

### **Reducing stress**

- Common stressors for honey bee colonies include a shortage of nectar or pollen, poor weather, infestation with other pests or diseases or a failing queen.
- Minimise movement of hives to other apiary sites, especially with a closed entrance as this particularly stresses bees
- Avoid opening hives more than is necessary or during poor weather conditions
- Supplement the colony's diet with sugar syrup and fresh uncontaminated pollen when available nutrition is poor
- Place hives in a well-ventilated, dry area where the sun is facing the entrance of the hive
- Avoid practices that can lead to loss of heat from the hive, e.g. removing adult bees, giving extra brood to rear, or adding on supers at the wrong time
- Reduce the volume of the brood during the winter period to preserve brood temperatures and promote a strong winter cluster

### Queen management

- Honey bee stocks can differ in susceptibility to EFB
- This is due to differences in the hygienic ability of different honey bee strains, which is determined by the queen
- Strong, well-resourced colonies with young, prolific queens will usually eliminate the disease themselves
- This is because shortages of cells for brood rearing promotes workers to remove sick larvae quickly
- Colonies headed by poor or failing queens do not so readily remove diseased larvae, so the bacteria build up in the hive
- Always replace an infected colony's queen bee with one supplied by a reputable breeder

### Good hive management practices to reduce infection, spread and re-infection

- If you detect EFB you should replace diseased comb with new frames, foundations and combs
- Otherwise, as a precautionary measure, replace brood frames every 3–4 years
- Another approach is to replace or 20–25% of old, dark comb annually
- Reduce or prevent the exchange between colonies of hive materials (e.g. frames/comb, honey, untreated pollen) that can spread EFB
- If you notice an EFB infection, always clean your beekeeping gear before inspecting a new hive location

### **Barrier management system for apiaries**

- Apiaries can put in place a <u>barrier management system</u> to separate hives or apiaries into different units
- This prevents the exchange of bees, combs, honey and hive components from one unit to another
- For commercial beekeepers, this also enhances traceability, biosecurity, quality assurance and builds on best practice principles.

References: European Foulbrood 2: Identification and Management - Bee2Bee

NSW DPI European foulbrood and its control Primefact Sheet

European foulbrood « Bee Aware



Figure 1 The bright white larvae are healthy. The larvae that have a yellow colouring are infected with EFB. The uneven aged larvae in the comb also suggests that the colony may be diseased as the worker bees regularly remove diseased larvae.



The Australian Veterinary Pesticides and Medicines Authority (APVMA) has approved an emergency use permit for ApiBioxal, for both dribbling and fogging/vaporisation methods. The new permit allows beekeepers, in states that have approval (currently NSW and Vic), to treat their hives with ApiBioxal.

# The permit is not a generic blanket approval for the use of any Oxalic acid chemicals, it is ApiBioxal product specific.

# There are specific personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements that beekeepers must adhere to when using the ApiBioxal products.

ApiBioxal targets phoretic mites and has minimal effect on mites under capping's, for greatest efficacy use when quantity of brood is non-existent or at its lowest levels. Oxalic acid does not penetrate wax so will not kill mites within capped brood and therefore the presence of brood may noticeably reduce the efficacy of the product.

AHBIC contacted the distributer in Australia and were told commencement of importation was granted only once the permit was in place. It has been confirmed that the product cannot be air freighted so must be shipped, the expected arrival of the first products will be up to 12 weeks, we estimate February 2025 at this stage.

# THE ISSUES WITH CHEAPER OVERSEAS OXALIC ACID PRODUCTS

AHBIC is often asked about registering "generic" products that can be sourced from overseas at a much lower price point then domestically available product. AHBIC has raised this directly with the APVMA and several issues have been highlighted that makes registration challenging.

Whilst these products claim to have the same active ingredient there is no quality assurance in place or overarching regulation to ensure the efficacy and safety of these products.

Studies in the USA have demonstrated that there has been variability in active ingredient concentration and inconsistencies between batches when using these types of cheaper products. This can create negative impacts on colony health, poor control of varroa and safety concerns for the beekeeper.

AHBIC would like to refer beekeepers to the <u>emergency permit on the APVMA</u> website to read the details.

### **DRIBBLING METHOD**

**Api-bioxal Solution label Dosage and administration:** Supplied as ready-to-use solution. Single 5mL application per beehive frame, administered using a syringe. Maximal dose 50 ml per beehive. Up to two treatments per year (winter and/or spring-summer season in brood-free colonies). DO NOT overdose



Api-bioxal Powder label Mixing directions: Prepare sugar syrup solution (1:1 ratio of water and sucrose) at the concentration of 35 g Api-Bioxal in 500 mL of syrup <> or 350 g in 5 litres syrup>>. Open the corresponding sachet containing the powder. Dissolve the powder in the prepared solution and mix until dissolved. Shelf life 24 hours after reconstitution. Method of application: Using a syringe, make a single application by trickling the Api-Bioxal sugar syrup between frames covered by bees, at a rate of 5 mL per frame full of bees.

### **VAPORISATION METHOD**

One treatment per year. DO NOT overdose.

<u>Method of application</u>: Use an electric resistance device for vaporisation. Follow the manufacturer's instructions in order to achieve maximum sublimation. Fill the pan of the vaporiser with 2.3 g powder. Place the appliance through the entrance of the hive under the bees, avoiding contact with the frames. Seal the entrance of the hive and any other ventilation points (e.g. screened bottom boards) to avoid escape of the bees and smoke. Turn on the vaporiser following the manufacturer's instructions for about 3 minutes and keep the hive shut for another 15 minutes. Cool down and clean the vaporiser after use, to remove possible residue (max 6%, around 0.140 g). Use drinkable water for cooling and/or cleaning.



**<u>Timing</u>**: Treat hives ideally in the autumn/early winter period after honey supers have been removed (i.e. surplus honey has been removed from the hive) when little or no brood is present. The presence of brood may reduce the effectiveness of the control of the Varroa mite. A repeat application may cause bee mortality or reduce colony build up in the following spring.

### Critical Use Comments:

- Apply when monitoring indicates that varroa infestations reach or exceed economic treatment thresholds.
- Oxalic acid may be applied in the presence of brood; however, it is expected that there will be a reduction in the efficacy of the products.
- Oxalic acid may be applied when supers are in place.
- Treatment using either method **may be repeated up to twice annually**, with a minimum interval of 5 days between applications. The toxicity associated with repeated vaporization treatments for bees has not been fully evaluated.
- When using the vaporisation method, you need to ensure that the instrument you are going to use will fit into the hive and that it doesn't touch the bottom of the frames, as it heats up to 200 degrees. Also, once the vaporising instrument is in the hive, you need to have the hive entry blocked off small enough that the vapor doesn't come out the front of the hive.
- All colonies in the same apiary should be treated simultaneously to avoid reinfestations.
- The product should be used in winter or following manipulation of the colony to produce a broodless state in summer (e.g. by queen caging) with a caging period of at least 25 days.

Withholding Period: Honey: Zero (0) days. HOWEVER, it is important that re-entry to treated hives within 48hours that beekeepers wear prescribed PPE and it likely to impact the efficacy of the treatment.

**Re-entry or Re-handling Statement:** DO NOT perform clean-up or other hive maintenance activities (including harvesting honey) until 48 hours after treatment, unless wearing cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist (or equivalent clothing) and chemical resistant gloves and goggles. Clothing must be laundered after each day's use.

# **SAFETY DIRECTIONS**

Hazards: Harmful if swallowed. Will irritate the nose and throat. Will damage eyes and skin.

Precautions: Avoid contact with eyes and skin. **Do not inhale dust or vapour.** Mixing and using instructions: When opening the container, preparing and using the product, wear cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist (or equivalent clothing), gauntlet-length chemical resistant gloves and goggles.

After Use: After use and before eating, drinking or smoking, wash hands, arms and face thoroughly with soap and water. After each day's use, wash gloves, goggles, and contaminated clothing.

**FIRST AID INSTRUCTIONS:** If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre. Phone Australia 13 11 26. If swallowed, do NOT induce vomiting. If skin contact occurs, remove contaminated clothing and wash skin thoroughly. If in eyes, hold eyes open, flood with water for at least 15 minutes and see a doctor.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**: DO NOT contaminate wetlands or watercourses with this product or used containers. ECOTOXIC. Toxic to terrestrial and aquatic life. Chemical not to be applied onto or into water. **DISPOSAL**: 500 mL (<1 L) bottles:

Dispose of unused product or container by wrapping them with paper and putting them in garbage.

# **BEEKEEPER RESPONSIBILTIES**

### Record keeping

Maintain records of all treatments performed under this permit. Details must include the date and locations where treatments occurred, the total amount of product used, and the names and addresses of the persons undertaking the use. These details must be maintained for a minimum period of two years from the date of expiry of this permit and must be made available to the APVMA or state authorised officials upon request.

**Reporting Users** must record any adverse experience associated with the use of the product and report them to the APVMA as soon as possible, ph. 1800 700 583 or aerp@apvma.gov.au.



Sherrie Smith, November 2024



### Varroa Chemical Treatment Table

Current on 18th November 2024 - check www.honeybee.org.au for the most up to date details

INDUSTR	Australia	an Honey Be	e Industry C	ouncil - V	arroa Chemi	ical Treatm	ent Table	
Current on 18th November 2024 - check <u>www.honeybee.org.au</u> for the most up to date details								
	This table	is not indicative	of the order of The colour code	treatments, t refers to the	hat is the respo mode of action.	nsibility of the	beekeeper.	
Product name Current 18/11/24	Bayvarol® PER95037	Apistan® PER95038	FormicPro® PER95344	Apivar PER94153	Apitraz PER94153	Apiguard® PER94655	Api-bioxal™ PER94609	Aluen CAP® Unregistered
Registration Status	Emergency use permit active Full Registration submitted	Emergency use permit active	Emergency use permit active Full registration progressing	Registered	Emergency use permit active Full Registration progressing	Registered 65570	Emergency Permit Active	Full Registration Application Submitted
Active ingredient	Flumethrin	Tau-fluvalinate	Formic acid	Amitraz	Amitraz	Thymol	Oxalic acid	Oxalic acid
Chemical Type	Synthetic pyrethroid	Synthetic pyrethroid	Organic acid	Synthetic formamidine	Synthetic formamidine	Organic extract	Organic acid	Organic acid
Product Type and dose for full size hive	plastic strips 4 strips per brood chamber	plastic strips 2 strips per brood chamber	gel strips 2 strips per brood chamber	plastic strips 2 strips per brood chamber	plastic strips 2 strips per brood chamber	gel product 50g per hive	Solution&Powder - 5mL per frame full of bees, max dose 50mL per hive, using syringe Powder - Vaporization 2.3g dose per hive	Cellulose strips 4 strips per brood chamber (pending full registration)
Temperature/ hive type limitations for treatment	Not critical	Not critical	Only treat when ambient daytime temps are between 10 °C & 29.5°C	Not critical	Not critical	Only treat when ambient daytime temps are between 15°C & 40°C	None	No
Treat with supers on hives	Yes - Comb honey cannot be collected or sold if treated when supers present	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes (pending full registration)
Treatment time	6-8 weeks	6-8 weeks	7 days	6-10 weeks *no more than once per year	6 weeks *no more than once per year	2 weeks then additional tray for 4 weeks (Total of 6 weeks)	Minimum of 5 days between applications *Either method repeat only twice per year	42 days (pending full registration)
Can nuclei colonies be treated	Yes – (2 strips per nuc)	Yes – (1 strip per nuc)	Colonies need to be a minimum of 6 frames of bees	Yes - (1 strip per nuc)	Yes - (1 strip per nuc)	Yes (25g per nuc)	Yes 5mL per frame full of bees for solution trickling with caution	Yes - 2 strips per nuc (pending full registration)
Withholding period	Not required when used as directed.	Do not have supers or harvest honey when strips are in	Only harvest honey after 2 weeks from the end of treatment	0 days after removal of strips. Do not have supers on when strips are in	2 weeks from the end of treatment. Do not have supers on when strips are in	0 days	0 days , hive re-entry 48 hours after treatment	None (pending full registration)
Varroa Coordinator					<b>B</b> SUNC			
Bianca Giggins bianca@honeybee.org.au - 0402 467 780								
3 <del>.</del>			- ti					
P: AHBIC@Hopeybee.org.au.a: 5 John St Ardrossan SA 5571 ARN: 63 939 614 424 wtwaw hopeybee.org.au								

### https://honeybee.org.au/ahbic-varroa-treatment-table/

Beekeepers can click the above link or scan the QR code for instant access to the most up to date version of the page on the AHBIC website.



# ABACC Club Christmas Party Event 2024







Thank you to all of those members who were able to make it to the Christmas party. It was a beautiful location, and a lovely time was had by all. Big thanks to Brad Born for bringing the icecream, what a fantastic idea!!! Also, thanks to the committee members for making this event happen!!!



# Native bee split with Michael and Alex, December 2024



Late last year one of our club members needed his native beehive split but it wasn't a conventional split, it was incased in a foam box! Whilst I'm sure this was a great idea for insulation at the time this hive was created, they did not foresee the difficulties it would cause when it came time to split the hive. The



bees in these boxes will actually create holes in the wooden box within and use the foam box to store propolis and even honey pots for extra supplies. This makes it more difficult and a very messy process when splitting the hive.

As this process is a lot more traumatic for the bees, it has to be done in stages. stage one was to remove the foam box, spend a decent amount of time scraping off the propolis on the outside of the wooden box. The box was them put into a new foam box for two and a half weeks. This gave the bees time to seal up their holes and recover for stage 2.







Dr Alexander Austin, who is the Environmental Programs Officer for Ku-ring-gai Council and who runs their native bee program, came to assist and enjoy the fun for stage 2 of the process!

This proved to be also a little challenging and was enjoyed by some of our club members, who were keen to see a split in action! The first challenge was to remove the colony from the





existing hive, but this was made very difficult, as it was held together by 2 inch nails! Michael had to resort to using a hook bar to get it apart. Eventually we got it apart and the brood split a little unevenly, but enough for the colony to be split into two hives. The club members were able to taste some of the spilt honey at this point. We collected some princess cells and placed them in the hive with the smallest amount of brood, to increase the chances the hive will have a queen. We put this weaker hive back in the original spot first, to encourage the foraging bees to go back into that hive and then a short while later put the other hive next to it, so the bees returning could go into either hive. Both hives seem to be doing well, and activity is present at the front of both hives. **Thank you to Jim, Michael and Alex for sharing this experience with the club members!** 























Sherrie Smith, December 2024





# **Roast Pumpkin & Fetta Frittata**

Pre heat oven to 180 C or 160C fan forced

### **Base ingredients:**

5 large eggs
½ cup thickened cream
½ cup sour cream
½ cup S/R flour (optional to use gluten free S/R flour)
½ cup grated cheese
½ medium brown onion sliced finely.
Salt & Ground Pepper to taste.
Olive oil spray
Additional for this recipe:
½ cup cubed pumpkin roasted
½ cup feta cheese cubed
½ cup grated Zucchini, extra rounds sliced finely to decorate.
1-2 garlic cloves roasted
Shaved parmesan



**Other options:** A very versatile, easy dish to change up vegetable flavour & combinations.

Diced cooked Bacon Grated carrot Finely diced mushroom Sweet potato Capsicum Sun dried tomatoes Spring onions.

### Method:

Pre heat oven to 160C. Prepare base ingredients. Chop, cube & grate vegetables that you wish to add to the frittata. The pumpkin will need to be pre-roasted to add to the frittata batter. On a lined oven tray, place the cubed Pumpkin pieces & garlic cloves. Spray over with Olive oil spray & season with salt & pepper. Cook till softened 25-30 minutes. Meanwhile whisk together the eggs, cream, and sour cream till combined. Slowly add sifted S/R flour & mix through with whisk until smooth & no lumps. Add the grated Zucchini, onion & combine. Crush the roasted garlic & mix. Season with salt & pepper. Pour into a quiche style dish, pre-sprayed with olive oil. Drop the roasted pumpkin cubes evenly over the top & sprinkle the crumbled Feta. Finish off decorating the top with finely sliced Zucchini if desired. Another sprinkle of shaved Parmesan cheese & you are right to place in the oven. Cook for 45minutes 160C till cooked through & golden. Enjoy 😊 Pam Peters xxx

### Sampled and recommended at the ABACC Christmas party. Thanks Pam!!!!!



# BRAND NEW UNOPENED BOXES

- Fourteen boxes unopened of 24 x 250ml jars \$8 box, white metal lids
- Three boxes of 24 x 375m \$10 box

jars, white metal lid

# If interested contact Jim Mitchell on 0418864265





# <u>Have you got something bee related</u> <u>for sale?</u>

Then send an email with information about the item/s for sale,

price and your contact details to secretary@centralcoastbees.org

and it will be featured in the next newsletter!

# **Queen Breeders List!**

Looking for a reputable queen bee breeder? Try the below contacts.

Name	Phone number	Location
Lockwoods- Garth Miller	0450369982	Bathurst
Jamie Baggs	0410508939	Edgeworth
Hannabees	0408543437	Dubbo







Page **26** of **32** 

# ABACC CLUB NOTICES

# **THE CLUB COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!**

The Central Coast Beekeepers Committee positions were voted for at the October AGM, and we would like to thank those who have agreed to continue in their current role. We would like to welcome Wayne Logan into the Vice President role and Robert Ray to an ordinary member voting position! Well done for stepping up, you will be well supported!



**BUT** there are Committee Positions that still need to be filled, see the committee members list on page 29 of this newsletter. If you would like to help out the club and take on a new role, please send an email to president@centralcoastbees.org

We would love to have your support and will be welcomed with open arms!!!

# February Education Session is to be decided in January 2025



shutterstock.com · 106267775

# ABACC 2025 CLUB MEETING DATES

Club Meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month (except January)

Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> of February 2025
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> of March 2025
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
December meeting/ Christmas party date to be confirmed



# FRAME/BOX BUILDING WORKSHOP SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2025 AT THE AG HOUSE IN RACECOURSE RD (AT THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING) 10AM-3PM

BYO lunch and cold drinks. Tea and coffee supplied on the day but bring your own cup!

Hands on frame and box building workshop. Bring your own gear to assemble (don't forget your battery drill, hammer, glue and screws/nails, wire etc) There will also be some club boxes and frames to assemble if you don't have any and need to learn

# RSVP by Friday 24th of January 2025 via below email apiaryofficer@centralcoastbees.org





# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OFFICE	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
Voting Positions		
President	Hart PETERS	president@centralcoastbees.org
Vice President	Wayne LOGAN	vicepresident@centralcoastbees.org
Secretary	Sherrie SMITH	secretary@centralcoastbees.org
Treasurer	Gordon FOSTER	treasurer@centralcoastbees.org
Ordinary Member	Michael GRAHAM	apiaryofficer@centralcoastbees.org
Ordinary Member	Neil Smith	membership@centralcoastbees.org
Ordinary Member	Robert Ray	
Non-Voting Positions		
Public Officer	Hart PETERS	president@centralcoastbees.org
Club Apiary Officer	Michael GRAHAM	apiaryofficer@centralcoastbees.org
Biosecurity Officer	Max Rae	biosecurity@centralcoastbees.org
Assistant Apiary Officer	Neil Smith	membership@centralcoastbees.org
Membership Officer	Neil Smith	membership@centralcoastbees.org
Quartermaster	Bruce MAIN	bhv.main@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Sherrie SMITH	secretary@centralcoastbees.org
Publicity Officer	Barbara ELKINS	barbaraelkins@ozemail.com.au
Librarian	Heidi ANDREWS	rumbalarabeesau@gmail.com
Catering Officer	Neil & Sherrie SMITH	secretary@centralcoastbees.org
Events Co-Ordinator	Position currently vacant	
Equipment Officer	Position currently vacant	
Assistant Secretary	Position currently vacant	



The Club Quartermaster, Bruce Main, carries a stock of basic beekeeping supplies available to Club members. Items and pricing are as follows:

### Price List (as of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024)

Boxes – 8 Frame (unassembled) – Full Depth	\$32.00 each
Boxes - 10 Frame (unassembled - Full Depth	\$31.50 each
Boxes – 8 Frame (unassembled) – WSP	\$26.00 each
Boxes – 8 Frame (unassembled) – Ideal	\$24.00 each
Migratory Lids – 8 Frame (unassembled)	\$27.00 each
Bottom Boards – 8 Frame (unassembled)	\$26.00 each
Metal Queen Excluder – 8 Frame	\$25.00 each
Metal Queen Excluder – 10 Frame	\$25.50 each

### FRAMES

TINE

Frames (unassembled) - Full Depth	
Frames (unassembled) - WSP	
Frames (unassembled) - Ideal	
Frames Plastic Drone Comb	

### FOUNDATION WAX

Foundation Wax - Full Depth Foundation Wax-WSP Foundation Wax - Ideal Foundation Wax- Drone Comb

### **TOOLS & ACCESSORIES**

Apithor – (hive beetle trap) Bee Brush Cover End Vents (metal) Emlocks (Hive Strap) Escape Boards – 8 Frame (complete) Eyelet Tool Eyelets - Brass Frame Lifter Framing Wire – Stainless Steel (500g roll) Hive Tool Queen Catcher Clips – Stainless Steel Varroa Mite - Alcohol Wash Test Kit

### **CONTAINERS & LABELS**

Glass Jars with Lids (500gm) Honey Squeeze Bottles with Caps (500gm) Honey Tubs with lid (1kg) Labels - Club Honey Container Labels Labels - "Made in Australia" (126 labels on a sheet) ı h h h

\$19.00 per bundle of 10 \$20.00 per bundle of 10 \$20.00 per bundle of 10 \$3.80 each

\$3.50 per sheet \$2.70 per sheet \$2.00 per sheet \$2.50 per sheet

\$10.00 each \$16.00 each \$2.50 per set of 4 \$11.50 each \$29.00 each \$9.00 each \$14.00 pack of 500 \$20.00 each \$26.00 per roll \$19.00 each \$9.00 each \$10.50 each

\$23.50 per carton of 24 \$10.50 per pack of 12 \$1.90 each \$0.65 each label \$5.00 per sheet

ATTENTION MEMBERS: For those who run 10 Frame beehive gear, I have one unassembled full depth box and one metal queen excluder remaining in stock and once they are sold, we will no longer be keeping 10 Frame gear in stock.

We have a Wire Framing Jig and a Wax Embedder (electric) available for hire to club members at a small cost of \$3.00 per item for 3 days hire. (members are to provide their own framing hardware)

**NOTE:** Item/s hired must be returned by 5:00pm on day 3 of the hire period (unless prior arrangement for alternate return is made.)

To order items either phone 43 246284 and leave a short, clear message or send through an email to

<u>bhv.main@gmail.com</u> and I will either prepare the order for pick up at Narara at a mutually prearranged day and time or I can bring your order along to the next monthly club meeting. (Address available on request.)

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



# This equipment is stored and maintained currently by the club president, Hart Peters until we can find a new equipment officer for the club.

The protocol for use of the equipment is to contact Hart in advance of when you are expecting to carry out an extraction and make a booking. It is wise to plan 1-2 weeks ahead. In times of peak honey flow, the equipment can be in high demand.

Hart can be contacted on 0417674687 or email <u>president@centralcoastbees.org</u> and he will advise availability, a pickup and drop off time and location. Please adhere to these times as other members may be in line to use the equipment after you.

Hart will request a deposit of \$20.00 (depending on how much equipment you borrow). The deposit will be refunded when the gear is returned, clean and ready for the next user. If the equipment is covered in wax or honey, and therefore not ready for the next user, your deposit may be forfeited. This is at Hart's discretion.

Any damage or breakages are the responsibility of the member borrowing the equipment. You are expected to rectify or replace the item at your cost. Please check the equipment when you collect it. If anything is out of order, please notify Hart immediately.

### **Equipment available:**

- 1 Manual honey extractor in 2 frame size
- 1 Manual honey extractor in 4 frame size
- 1 Electric honey extractor in 3 frame
- 2 Manual honeycomb presses
- 2 Electric uncapping knives
- 1 Cold uncapping knife
- 1 Honey creamer
- 1 strainer with coarse and fine 3 stainless steel bowls 1 spatula
- 2 person hive lifter for moving hives or removing or replacing supers.





The following publications are available for members of the ABACC to borrow. Please see Heidi at our club meeting. The library is available from 6:30pm on club meeting nights. You may hold a book for 1 calendar month, and it must be returned at the next meeting. If you are unable to attend, please make arrangements for the item to be returned in your absence. **Click on the link below** to see our library book list.

# **ABACC CLUB LIBRARYBOOK LIST**

# CONTACT HEIDI OUR LIBRARIAN via email: rumbalarabeesau@gmail.com

