Inside this Issue:

Next ABACC Meeting Wednesday 25th September at: Erina Trust Community Hall, 27 Karalta Road, Erina. Commencing 7pm Beginning in bees' session commences 6pm.

Newsletter for submissions: 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 THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the second newsletter for the year. We have a lot in stall for you!

September is swarm season so hopefully you have put into place some swarm prevention measures already. We have a few notes on swarm collection from our head apiarist, Michael Graham.

As our hives for the native bee hosting program will be arriving in the coming months, I thought it would be a good time to have a closer look at the native stingless bee.

Also, one of our members has a soft spot for our beautiful leaf cutter bees so we will learn a little more about them.

We will be looking at the small hive beetle, one of our most common honeybee pests, especially here on the coast. With our warm humid conditions and high varroa mite population, small hive beetle has the potential to thrive.

There is the "Who Am I?" profile so that members can get to know our committee members a little better and see where they are in their beekeeping journey.

All of this and so much much more!

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

So, sit down with the cuppa or a glass of mead and enjoy a great read!

Sherrie Smith (Editor)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi all, and welcome to our second newsletter for 2024!

Spring is in the air and yet, another two weeks until it is officially here. We've had swarms happening now since the 7th of July. Crazy weather! Our club hives and many other hives are booming at the moment. It's as though the bees are trying to make up for the last two years. Hives are swarming quicker than beekeepers can do their inspections. WOW!

We are now in new beginnings, learning how to manage varroa and keep bees. I hope our education presentations have been helpful and yes, we will continue bringing you all the information as it comes to hand.

At our August meeting we had two guest presenters, Jamie Baggs doing a presentation on queen bees which included re queening and queen breeding. We also had Ana and Sven Martin (who were previous members of this club), gave us a presentation on a Varroa Treatment heat box, which is an alternate treatment to chemicals. I hope these presentations gave you something else interesting to think about.

At September's meeting we have Chris Tochuss, one of our club members, giving a talk and in October the very knowledgeable Sandra Rae will talk to us about how to present our precious honey for show presentations and all it entails.

I'm looking forward to catching up with you all and discussing how our journey into beekeeping is progressing

I hope you enjoy this edition of the club's newsletter!

Hart Peters (President)

Hi Members,

It's the time in the season for **SWARMS**!

When you get a call to collect a swarm, there are two main questions to ask:

1. What is the size in comparison to a rockmelon or basketball?
2. How high up is it and what's on the ground underneath?

This information is critical for you to *bee* successful in collecting the swarm.

What's in my box that I carry in the back of my vehicle?

One of the most important items is a ground sheet, I carry 2 old queen size sheets. If you shake the swarm into a box on the ground, it's easy for the bees to march in without struggling through long grass.

The next important items are a pruning saw and clippers. If the swarm is in a low tree or bush, it's easier to prune out the branch and lower the swarm into a box. If possible, I take one 8 frame box with a 5 frame nuc. It's not advisable to use a vented base, as the bees will gather under the base trying to get in.

My bucket on a long painter's pole, has been used with great success with hanging swarms up to 5 meters high.

The Hook pole is great for dropping swarms up to 3.5 meters high onto the ground sheet and box.

I have had little success with swarms over 7 meters high, as all the bees end up on the wing and never reach the ground as a cluster.

Other Items in my kit include smoker and fuel, spray bottle with sugar water, gloves and pieces of cardboard for ramps into the hive.

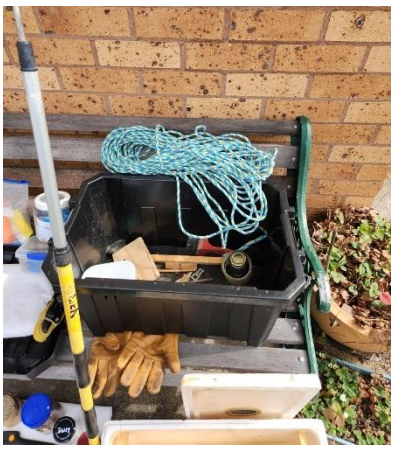
I also carry a vented poly box with frames, only for emergency use as the polly box can get too hot in summer.

Don't *bee* fooled in thinking the Queen is in the box because the workers are fanning their nasanov gland at the entrance or top of the box.

Many a time I've observed this fanning for 15 minutes, only to watch the Queen land and walk in.

I will always thank the caller and reward them with a couple of jars of honey when I collect the hive in the evening. This works to your advantage as I've collected swarms from the same bush or trampoline each year for 4 years.

So Good luck with swarms and remember they're free bees!!!!



Michael Graham (Apiary Officer)

BRUCE MAIN

Role in the club: Quartermaster

Suburb I live: Still live at Narara, 43 years.

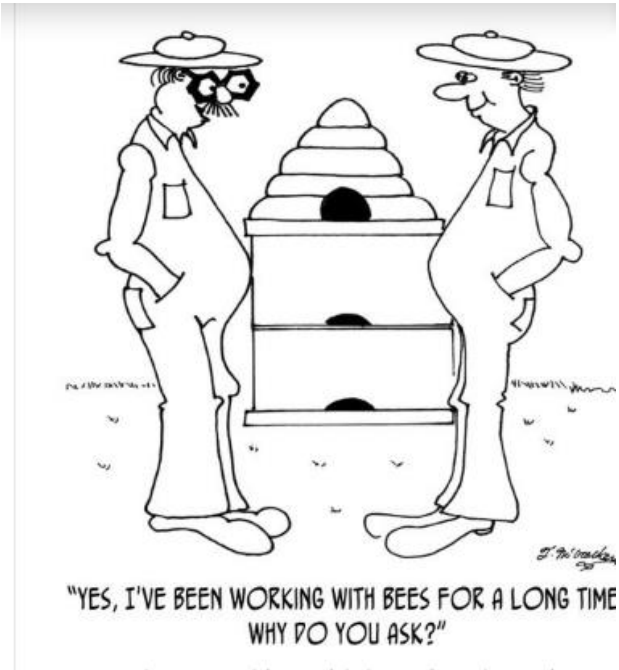
Member of the club: Joined the Central Coast Bee club 2017 and 1 year later and took on the Quartermaster position.

My beekeeping journey: Started beekeeping in Narara at my residence in 1985/1986, but ceased after approximately 12 years of beekeeping, due to family obligations, shift work and other responsibilities.
Took up beekeeping again in late 2015, when encouraged to do so by my family. This was triggered when a swarm landed in my yard.

Some more interesting facts about me: Married, father of 3, grandfather of 6.
Retired in 2013 from the Power Generation Industry, serving 38 years. Electrician by trade and retired as an electrical Engineering Officer.

Loves working with timber/wood and loves wooden boats.

Enjoy a red wine or 2 (or three).
Favourite food,,,,,,,, food!!! Too many to mention,,,.



Enjoy the theatre of watching NRL and most physical sports.

Enjoy social interaction and mentoring / helping people, don't like my own company!

Enjoy living a simple uncomplicated lifestyle in retirement, grandkids family and with bees my hobby interest.

Thanks Bruce, giving us a snippet of your life!

TETRAGONULA CARBONARIA

We have 11 described species of Stingless Bees in Australia and more that have been discovered but not yet named. This article covers one of the most popular species that people will keep in their backyards

The Queen

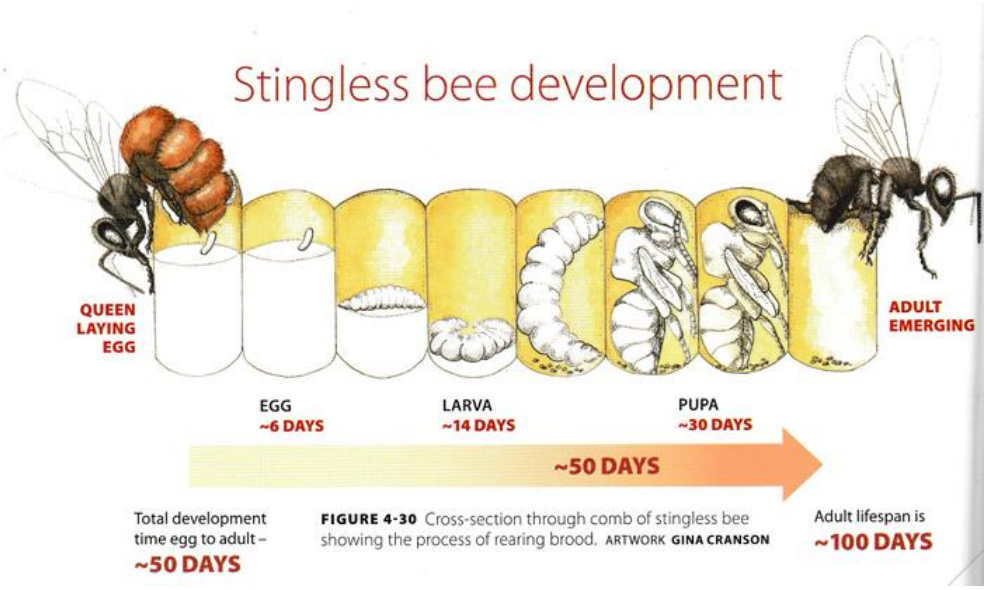
Healthy colonies can contain 5000 to 10,000 bees – with one mated Queen. The Stingless Bee Queen will not leave the hive. Once she has mated, she will become much larger than the other Bees and can't fly. Life span of the Queen could be from one year to four years. The Queen could lay 300 eggs per day.

The Brood

Stingless Bees have a "single use" brood cell (European Honeybees use the cells over and over) The photo across shows the brood spirals and cells. This hive has been split and this level of the brood is called the "Advancing Front". It's where the brood is being built or progressing upwards. You can also see the open cells ready for the Queen to place an egg in to.

Life Span

The Bees will spend roughly fifty days developing in the brood then one hundred days once it's left the brood. The new bee will take on different roles in the colony over its life, from caring for the brood to foraging for resources. The Queen will live much longer. The newly emerged bees start out white.



Hive Position

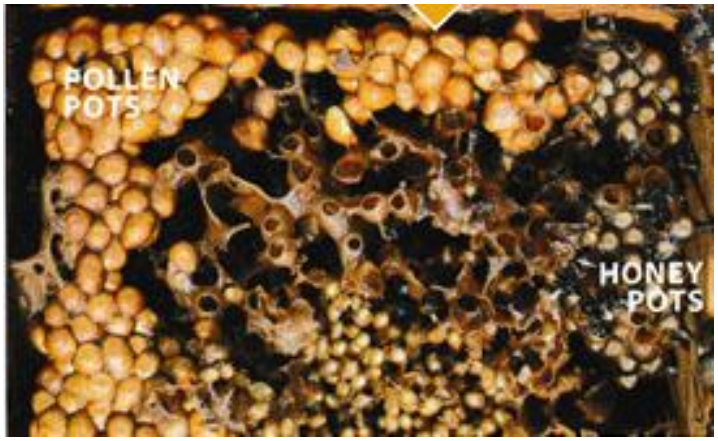
Depending on your location, in Winter some morning sun to warm the hive early and shade for the rest of the day is ideal. The Australian Native Stingless Beehive is perfectly safe to keep in your backyard, verandah or patio as they don't sting or annoy people, though they can swarm so might be best to keep the hive away from your back door. During our hot Summers the bees don't need any morning sun.

Temperature

The bees don't leave the hive until temperatures reach 18 degrees so the hive can get a little quiet in winter. They can handle very cold temperatures but not for too long. If it's too cold, it restricts their ability to gather resources like Nectar and Pollen. They don't like extreme heat either. Temperatures that reach 42 degrees have been reported to kill the bees. Always provide a good roof on top of the hive for Sun and Rain protection.

Honey and Pollen storage

Stingless Bees can create their honey pots everywhere within the hive, but it's commonly thought they will store their honey further away from the entrance, and place Pollen nearer the entrance. Most boxes will have an extra frame on top that is separated from the brood area, this is called the "Honey Super". The bees are more likely to fill that area with honey pots.



Flight Range

The bees can travel around 500m distance from the hive to collect resources. They may travel further if they need to. (European Honeybees travel 5km away from the hive). Male bees will travel further to mate, possibly many kilometres from the colony and never return.

Abandoning a hive

Stingless Bees will not abandon or just leave a hive. If the Queen dies and there's no new Queen created, then the hive will slowly die out. A new Queen should be created and the colony will continue. Many people say the bees just left. It's more likely the colony slowly died out.

Pests

A strong colony is usually able to defend itself against all pests. If the hive is weak, no Queen or low numbers then it will be more susceptible to pest attack.

Syrphid Fly Larvae

A common pest is the **Syrphid Fly.** It can lay its larvae in gaps. The Larvae can enter the colony and turn it to mush

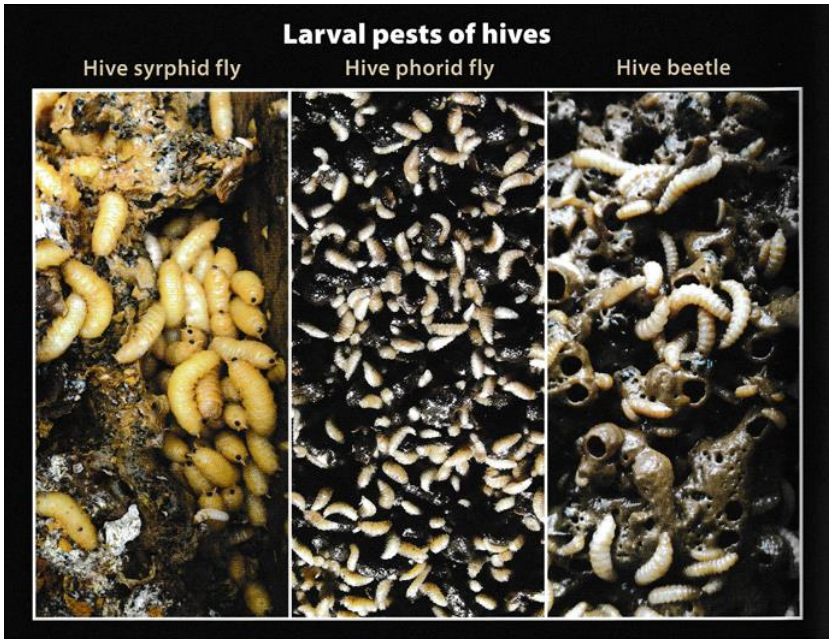
Phorid Fly

Phorid Fly are half the size of a stingless bee and very fast so they can enter the hive and evade the stingless bees. Phorid Fly can lay eggs in the hive and the larvae can destroy the hive.

Small Hive Beetle

Adult small hive beetles enter the hive and lay eggs. The resulting larvae cause extensive damage by their feeding and by inoculating the hive with a fungus that converts the honeycomb to a slimy mess. Affected hives are sometimes identified by characteristic stains around the entrance left by departing larvae.

FIGURE 14-3 A stingless bee *(A. australis)* on the left and three individuals of small hive beetles showing size variation.
IMAGE **MEGAN HALCROFT**



Swarming

You may notice fighting swarms and mating swarms. One colony may be trying to take over another, or there might be bees from multiple colonies competing to mate with a new Queen. There may be thousands of bees swirling in the air. This could continue for weeks or months. Fighting bees can lock on to each other and will never let go. You may have thousands of dead bees locked together on the ground.

Males

Research has shown that Males can travel many kilometres to find other colonies for the chance to mate with a Virgin Queen. These males don't return to their own colony so will gather with other males and hang out overnight.

Pollination

Bees can help pollinate many different crops for Farmers, and your backyard garden. Many crops and even your backyard fruit and vegies will benefit greatly from pollination. Stingless bees have been shown to be valuable pollinators of crops such as macadamias, mangos, watermelons and lychees. They may also benefit strawberries, citrus, avocados and many others.

References: 1. The Australian Native Bee Book: Keeping stingless bee hives for pets, pollination and sugarbag honey, Tim Heard 2016.
2. www.aussiebee.com.au, accessed 29/6/2024
3. nativebeehives.com, accessed 24/8/2024

What is Small Hive Beetle (SHB)?

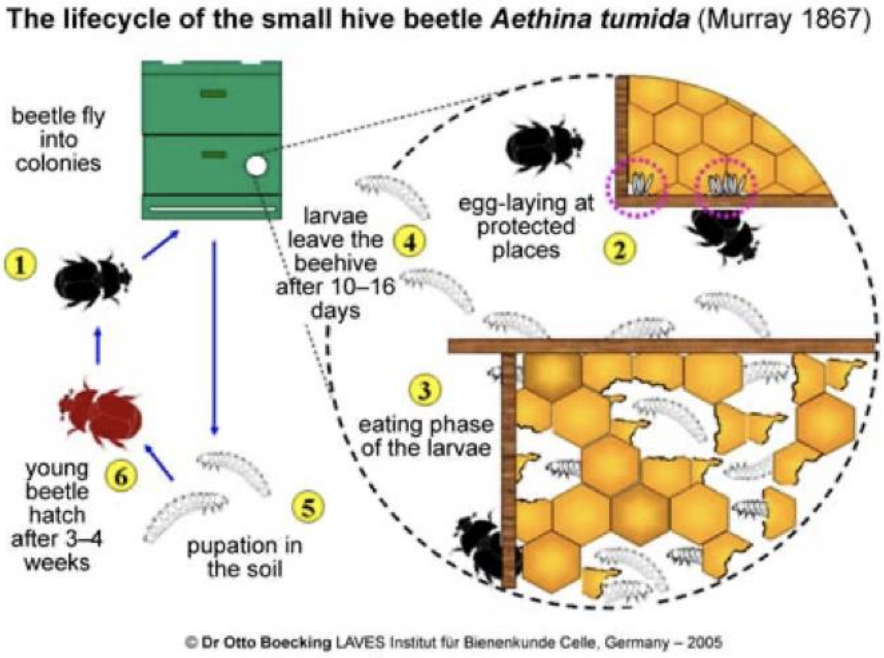
Small Hive Beetle (Aethina timida) originated from sub-Saharan Africa and was first identified in Australia in October 2002 and has since spread prolifically. Adult SHB are dark brown to black oval shaped beetles, usually around 4-7mm long and 2.5-3.5mm wide.

How do SHB get into hives?

It is suggested that SHB can fly over 10km and they can readily detect and intrude into honeybee colonies. If a chance arises, adult beetles lay clusters of eggs in a hive, in cracks, crevices and even in capped cells. The egg is about 2/3 the size of a bee egg and if they are not removed by bees they hatch beside an ample food reserve.

Larvae: Creamy white colour, growing to 10 mm long and 1.6 mm wide.

Pupae: Mature larvae leave the hive to pupate within close proximity to the hive. They usually burrow into moist soil to a depth of 5-20 cm but can utilise a range of moist mediums. SHB can crawl large distances (>100 m) to find suitable conditions for pupation. Pupae start creamy white and change to a chestnut brown to black as they develop into an adult beetle form prior to emergence.



Adult SHB:

- are inactive below 10°C
- lay eggs when disturbed
- lay eggs at temperatures 20°C - 40°C.
- lay more eggs in conditions of high humidity.
- are sexually mature about 3 to 6 days after emergence.
- can survive 6 months.
- tend to avoid light.
- prefer to fly just before dusk.

How does SHB Damage the hive?

The SHB larvae do the most damage by:

- consuming bee eggs, bee brood, pollen and honey.
- burrowing through combs and cappings, leaving them damaged.
- defecating in honey and contaminating it with a yeast that causes honey to ferment, froth and weep out of cells (sliming of the combs). The honey cannot be used by bees or humans.
- causing the queen bee to stop laying and the colony to die out or abscond (leave the hive).

Stored honey supers (full or extracted), stored hive equipment, containers of propolis and unclean extracting sheds are susceptible to SHB larvae damage because there are no adult bees present to stop adult SHB from laying eggs.

When are hives more susceptible to SHB?

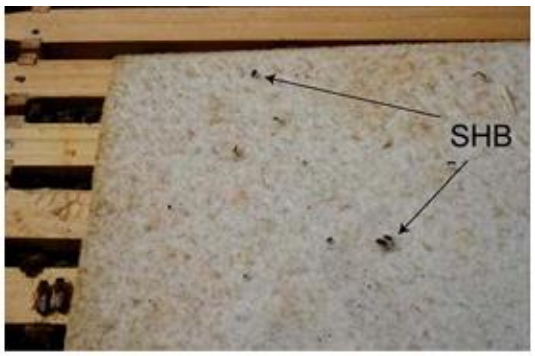
Even though hives can have large numbers of SHB and show no damage, it can occur when:

- hives are weak or stressed.
- weather conditions are hot and humid.
- there is excess space in the hive not covered by resident bees.
- the hive is disturbed.
- there are enough beetles to attract other beetles.

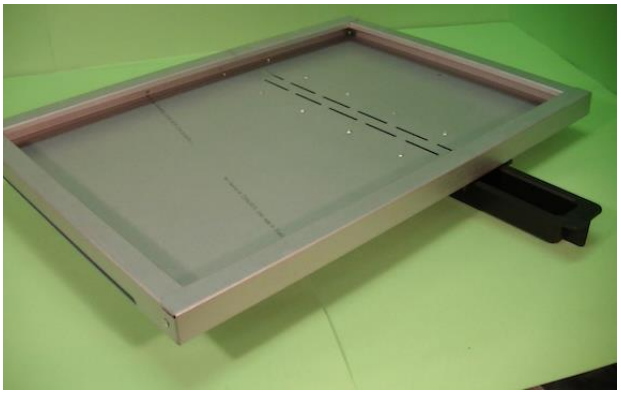
What can beekeepers do to reduce SHB numbers?

In the Apiary:

- hives should be placed in a sunny location, on areas of rubble or hard dry soil to minimise SHB pupation sites.
- ensure you have a strong healthy hives with a young productive queen.
- do not leave too much space in the hive for the bees to manage, honey supers should only be added to a strong colony when 70% of combs in the hive are filled with honey and/or brood and there are sufficient honeybees to protect and maintain supers.
- reduce the number of times you disturb the hive in hot humid weather.
- minimise the cracks and crevices within the hive by removing burr comb and propolis, as these areas are all where SHB hide or lay their eggs.
- remove dead hives from the apiary.
- if using a ventilated base on your hive.
- use a reservoir trap on the hive with vegetable oil, agricultural lime or diatomaceous earth in it.
- use a beetle trap e.g. felt mat or corflute (SHB will get their feet tangled in the fibre of the felt and they hide in the corflute where they can be removed from hive and squashed).
- use an insecticide-treated harbourage only when numbers get high, using it continuously can lead to resistance to the insecticide.
- regularly check the apiary and remove hives affected by SHB larvae.



Floor vinyl cover mat with dead SHB adults captured in the felt backing.



BeetItra™ is a semi-permanent attachment which is fitted underneath the beehive (not inside) using screws. It can be accessed without disturbing the hive. Reservoirs at the bottom of the trap kill the SHB that seek refuge inside, but honeybees are prevented from entering.

Silver bullet SHB trap

In the honey extracting facility/ equipment storage area and at the hive location:

- maintain beekeeping equipment storage area/ extracting facility hygiene and keep it tidy.
- remove any dead bees.
- combs that even contain a small amount of bee brood should not be brought into an extracting facility.
- do not leave dead colonies, combs, burr comb, propolis, beeswax scraps etc, around the extracting facility/ beekeeping equipment storage area that can attract and encourage SHB to breed.
- clean extractor equipment after use.
- store honey supers in a cool room or in a sealed room with a humidifier or in a freezer.

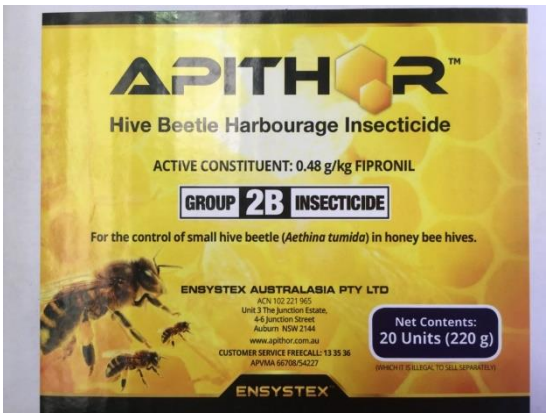
SHB Hints:

- If you have a ventilated base, place a piece of corflute sprinkled with diatomaceous earth, in under the ventilated base at commencement of hive inspection. At the completion of the inspection, pull it out and squash all the SHB that have fallen through onto the corflute.

- If removing honey super during inspection, place hive lid on the ground and put honey super on top. When you lift honey super to put back on hive you can squash all the hive beetle on the lid.

Chemical Treatment options for Small Hive Beetle

Apithor



One of the most effective treatments available to beekeepers around Australia is Apithor™.

The Apithor™ harbourage is comprised of two black, rigid moulded plastic shells that hold a Fipronil treated 4 mm corrugated cardboard insert. This insert is located 10 mm back from the 3 mm wide entrance slots.

Size differences between the beetles and the honeybees and the precise dimensions of the harbourage prevent the honeybees from contacting the cardboard insert but allow easy access for SHB.

The plastic shells are ultra-sonically welded to produce a tamperproof device so that the harbourage can be safely handled without fear of contacting the insecticide. The SHB is a shy insect, so when it runs into the Apithor™ trap for protection, it touches the Fipronil coated cardboard, which ultimately kills the SHB.

How to use Apithor

1. With a hive tool, paint scraper or similar implement remove wax and debris from a sufficient area of the bottom board to accommodate the harbourage.

2. Place harbourage, flat surface down, on the bottom board with the slot ends aligned away from the hive entrance. The harbourage must sit flat on the bottom board such that beetles cannot shelter underneath.

3. In hives with corrugated or distorted bottom boards apply a thin bead of silicone sealant to the outer edge of the underside of the harbourage and press down firmly onto the bottom board.

4. Unless stuck to the bottom board a thin wire may be attached to the harbourage to facilitate later removal from the hive via the hive entrance thus removing the need to open the hive.

5. Monitor harbourages for damage or for 'waxing up' of the slot entrances. Replace if damaged or when effectiveness declines.

6. Remove harbourages when control has been established or after 3 months.

Safety Considerations:

Restraints (ACT, NSW, QLD, WA & VIC only):

Do not use in hives with perforated bottom boards.
Do not use in hives subject to water inundation.
Do not open or remove the insert from the harbourage device.

If Apithor is placed in the honey supers, moisture can enter the trap and allow the chemical to wash out possibly killing the bees and contaminating honey frames.

Topbait Plus

Topbait™ Plus is an Australian Made and Designed Small Hive Beetle Bait. The gel bait is to be placed inside the centre of an APIS Small Hive Beetle Trap Enclosure on top of the frames.

How does it work?

When used in conjunction with APIS Small Hive Beetle Trap, the bees force the Small Hive Beetles towards the top of the hive, and then into the trap via small slots. These entry slots on APIS SHB Traps have been specially designed so that bees cannot stick their heads and tongues through and access the bait

How to use Topbait™ Plus

Step 1: Place 1 gram of bait into the well in the centre of the trap. Close the trap ensuring the side pins and the locking bar are clicked into position, this will ensure the trap is securely closed. Place the traps in a corner of the top honey box, not in the centre. For best results, place two traps per hive and position on opposing corners.

Step 2: As the beetles enter the APIS traps and eat the SHB Bait, it is a common occurrence that bees will propolis the trap entries in an effort to trap them inside. To counter this, we recommend checking the traps routinely every 7 days and clearing the propolis from the slots with your hive tool if required.

Step 3: *Repeat!* Controlling Small Hive Beetle is an ongoing process, but it doesn't have to be difficult. Inspect and clear the traps every 7 days, replacing the bait when necessary.

For more information view our Quick Video Tutorial:

References:

1. https://beeaware.org.au/archive-pest/small-hive-beetle/#ad-image-0, **accessed June 2024**
2. www.ensystex.com.au, **accessed June 2024.**
3. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/220240/small-hive-beetle-management-options.pdf, accessed June 2024
4. Pest Control Direct, Accessed 29/6/2024

The amazing handiwork of the Leafcutter Bees makes them one of the most fascinating bees in Australia! Our Leafcutter Bees are in genus *Megachile* and range in size from about 6 to 15 mm. They belong to the family Megachilidae and are found all over Australia.

You can also identify a leafcutter bee by the way the female collects and transports pollen in the hairlike structures on the underside of her abdomen instead of in "baskets" on the rear legs; a female leafcutter's abdomen may appear yellow or golden from the pollen. Females usually have stout mandibles for cutting leaves, large heads in proportion to the body, and stout parallel-sided abdomens.

Male Leafcutter Bees have highly modified feet with a number of dark markings. Different species of leafcutter bees have different markings.

It is believed that during courtship the male leafcutter bee passes his feet over the female's eyes in a rubbing motion. She uses the patterns to identify the male as the correct species and potential mate.

As solitary bees, leafcutter bees don't live in colonies with a queen. Each female bee builds her own nest to raise her brood. To build the nest, the female bee chews ¼- to ½- inch circular pieces from leaves or petals, (unlike caterpillars which leave irregular holes in leaves), which she layers into the shape of a thimble for each cell. Gardeners may notice circular holes in soft-leaved plants, such as roses.

They take the pieces of leaf back to their nests which are in burrows in the ground or in a narrow crevice. There they weave the leaf pieces into a cylindrical brood cell for their young. A typical nest consists of up to 20 of these cells, packed tightly together.

The female then begins the process of collecting nectar and honey, which she mixes with her own saliva to create food for her larvae. After placing food in each cell, she lays a single egg in each one.

The final task in her life cycle is to close each cell with a seal made of chewed-up leaves. Each egg is left to hatch into grubs, who will eat the provisions before pupating.

Leafcutter bees are one of the most important pollinators of wildflowers, as well as of squash, melons, peas, and other summer fruits and vegetables. Farmers use them to pollinate crops such as blueberries, onions, carrots, and alfalfa.

References: 1. www.aussiebee.com.au, accessed 30/6/2024
2. Australian Museum, accessed 30/6/2024
3. www.thespruce.com, accessed 30/6/2024

The Native Gold- Tipped Leafcutter Bee

(*Megachile Eutricharaea Macullariformis)*

***A CAUTIONARY TALE*- Written by Kerry Naughton**

Many years ago, I made the mistake of thinking the “half-moon” cuts on the rose leaves in my garden were from a pest and so I sprayed the leaves. Then I learned that the leaves were being used by native leafcutter bees using the carefully cut segments of my rose leaves to line their nests. I was devastated that I had possibly harmed this fantastic native bee. Fortunately, the little buzzers were resilient and have returned to chew their way through my rose leaves again. Now when I see the damaged leaves I am thrilled to know they are in my garden again. I haven’t seen them cutting the leaves, but I know they are there. I have included a photo of some of my rose leaves the bees have used for their homes.

Thank you to Kerry Naughton for Sharing

Award-winning mead-maker Sandra Rae (wife of our Biosecurity Officer, Max) hosted 2 separate mead making workshops in June and August.

It was well attended with 10 people (2 lots of 5) who came from a mix of both the Central Coast bee club and the Newcastle Bee club attending.

The day began with a brief history of the fermented beverage and a rundown of the various types of mead. It included a discussion of the many types of honey that are available, their characteristics, and which ones to use in a batch of mead. Participants were treated to discussions on yeast, special ingredients and what equipment was required for the process. They were also supplied with a handout of simple recipes and handy hints. A batch of mead was made using the participants own honey and ingredients.

This hands-on mead-making workshop was a fantastic opportunity for anyone who loves honey, bees and delicious fermented beverages. The combination of learning about and tasting various meads from commercial and hobby makers, along with making your own batch of mead, provided an immersive, fun, and educational experience.

This encouraged all the participants to continue their mead-making journey at home, develop their skills and hopefully enter the Gosford and Royal Easter shows, with their own brews!

Best of all, it had something for everyone, from the stone-cold beginner to the seasoned veteran!

Written by Max Rae

MEAD

Mead , also called honey wine, and hydromel (particularly when low in alcohol content), is an alcoholic beverage made by fermenting honey mixed with water, and sometimes with added ingredients such as fruits & spices. Possibly the most ancient alcoholic drink, the defining characteristic of mead is that the beverage's fermentable sugar is derived from honey. It may be still, carbonated, or naturally sparkling, and despite a common misconception that mead is exclusively sweet, it can also be dry or semi-sweet.

Mead that also contains spices is called metheglin , and mead that contains fruit is called melomel.

Thanks to Sandra and Max Rae for putting on such an enjoyable 2 days and sharing it with us all!

BEEUTIFUL ARTWORK

Do you have a picture of some beautiful artwork?
Maybe a bee related art project or a great bee photo you took or would just like to share? Then send it to secretary@centralcoastbees.org and it will be shared in the next newsletter!

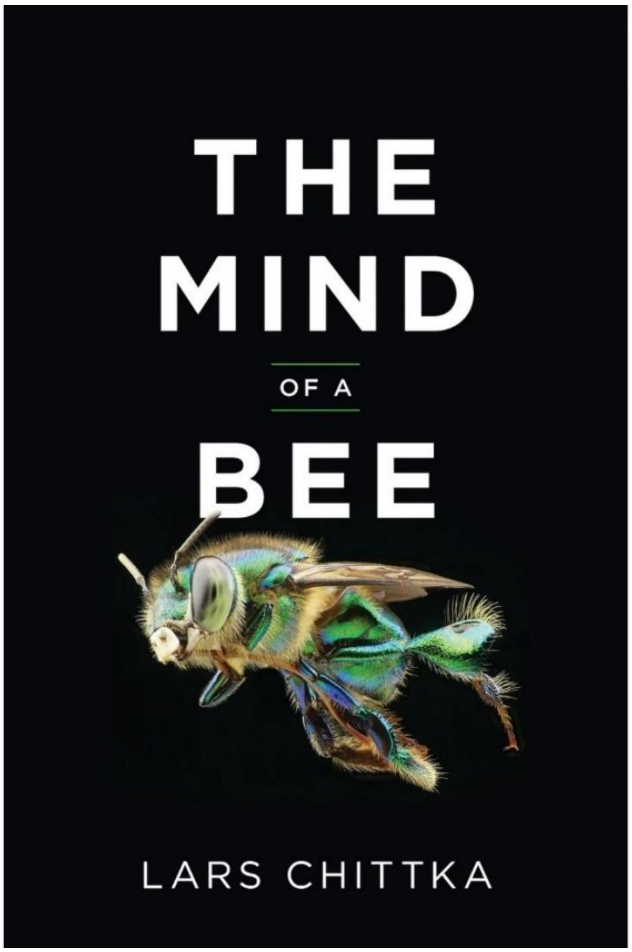
Artwork supplied by Sherrie Smith

There are new books that have been purchased by the club, that have been added to the club library thanks to research from our club librarian Heidi, very exciting!!!

New books have been highlighted in yellow on the library book list, scroll to bottom of newsletter!

New Book Review

THE MIND OF A BEE by Lars Chittka



We know that bees have this amazing ability to work as a collective, but how uniquely intelligent are bees as individuals?

In *The Mind of a Bee*, Lars Chittka draws from decades of research, including his own pioneering work, to argue that bees have remarkable cognitive abilities.

He shows that they are profoundly smart, have distinct personalities, can recognise flowers and human faces, exhibit basic emotions, count, use simple tools, solve problems, and learn by observing others.

Thanks to Heidi for providing this information.

❖ New White 10 Frame Hive Doctor Base suits timber or plastic boxes.
More than 20 available for $32 each, including front entry reducer as shown.

❖ New 8 Frame plastic deep box $30.00, only 1 available.

❖ New Stainless steel deep frame excluders, used to trap the queen on a single frame, used for Varroa management. More than 10 available for $50 each.

Hive Doctor Base

Plastic Deep 8 Frame

Stainless Steel Deep Frame Excluder

Deep foundation wax sheets
Wax from my hives on the Central Coast
chemical treatment free
Rolled by Col Wilson at Kurri Kurri.
Per Box 14kg (Approx 183-185 sheets) $450
Per sheet $3.00

If interested contact Max Rae on 0424168590

Personlised Gifts by Tracey

0429 223 339

Personlised gifts by tracey

For all your home made and personalised gifts.

Kids drink bottles

40oz tumblers

Family circles

20oz tumblers

Message for prices as prices vary depending on size & product. Many more products available

Acrylic cake topper

Personalised Gifts by Tracey

Have you got something bee related for sale?

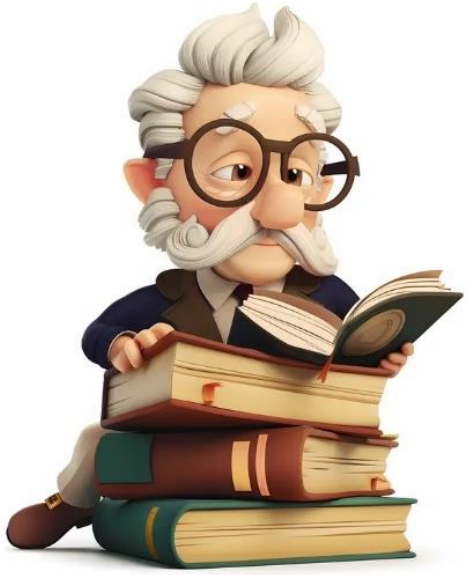
Then send an email with information about the item/s for sale,

price and your contact details to secretary@centralcoastbees.org

and it will be featured in the next newsletter!

A very big

Thank You goes to Richard Savage for his kind donation of numerous books to our club library. I am sure they will be enjoyed by many!



Also, a big thank you to Nickole Marsden for donating "Queen Spotting" by Hilary Kearney.

Last October we had a guest speaker Dr Nural Cokcetin give a talk on Medicinal Honey. Thanks to Brad Born we can watch the recording on the below link:

Medicinal Honey - The History & the Science - Dr Nural Cokcetin

Some places still available for the hosting Natives Bees Program!!

NATIVE BEEHIVE HOSTING PROGRAM

Club members are invited to care for a native beehive for 12 months. It will then be split into 2 hives by the club apiary officer. You will have the opportunity to purchase one hive and the other hive passed onto another member of the club to keep the education alive.

5 HIVES AVAILABLE VIA BALLOT, ONLY AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS WHO CURRENTLY DO NOT HAVE A NATIVE BEEHIVE!

If you're interested in the program, please send and expression of interest email with your name, address and a photo of the location on your property where you wish to house the hive.

Successful ballot winners will be notified and location assessed for suitability prior to placement of hives.
Email: apiaryofficer@centralcoastbees.org

THE CLUB COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The Central Coast Beekeepers AGM will be held at our October Club Meeting and all Committee Positions will be available.

If you would like to nominate someone for the committee then print the *Management Committee Nomination Form* which is the last page of the newsletter. Please check with the person you are nominating, that they are happy to be nominated.

Email completed forms to president@centralcoastbees.org

September Education Session at the club meeting is guest speaker Chris Tockuss subject to be confirmed.

October Education Session at the club meeting is a presentation from Sandra Rae on Honey Presentation for Show Entries.

MENTORS NEEDED!!!

Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge with people who share an interest?

Then why not become a club mentor!

If you are interested in being a resource person for the less experienced beekeepers in the club, then send your name, contact number and the areas/postcodes you are willing to cover on the central coast to:

secretary@centralcoastbees.org

Mentor list to be complied and sent out to members in November.

Club Meetings the 4th Wednesday of the Month

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Note: December/Christmas party date and information coming soon!!!!

OFFICE Position	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
President	Hart PETERS	president@centralcoastbees.org
Vice President	**Position currently vacant**	
Secretary	Sherrie SMITH	secretary@centralcoastbees.org
Treasurer	Gordon FOSTER	treasurer@centralcoastbees.org
Public Officer	Hart PETERS	president@centralcoastbees.org
Publicity Officer	Barbara ELKINS	barbaraelkins@ozemail.com.au
Biosecurity Officer	Max Rae	biosecurity@centralcoastbees.org
Club Apiary Officer	Michael GRAHAM	apiaryofficer@centralcoastbees.org
Assistant Secretary	Nickole MARSDEN	nickole.marsden@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Neil Smith	membership@centralcoastbees.org
Assistant Apiary Officer	Neil Smith	membership@centralcoastbees.org
Quartermaster	Bruce MAIN	bhv.main@gmail.com
Librarian	Heidi ANDREWS	rumbalarabeesau@gmail.com
Catering Officer	Neil & Sherrie SMITH	secretary@centralcoastbees.org
Events Co-ordinator	Hart PETERS	president@centralcoastbees.org
Equipment Officer	**Position currently vacant**	
Newsletter Editor	Sherrie SMITH	secretary@centralcoastbees.org

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 23rd August 2024)

HIVES	
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	
Frames (unassembled) - Full Depth	$19.00 per bundle of 10
Frames (unassembled) - WSP	$20.00 per bundle of 10
Frames (unassembled) - Ideal	$20.00 per bundle of 10
Frames Plastic Drone Comb	$3.80 each
FOUNDATION WAX	
Foundation Wax – Full Depth	$3.50 per sheet
Foundation Wax – WSP	$2.70 per sheet
Foundation Wax – Ideal	$2.00 per sheet
Foundation Wax- Drone Comb	$2.50 per sheet
TOOLS & ACCESSORIES	
Apithor – (hive beetle trap)	$10.00 each
Bee Brush	$16.00 each
Cover End Vents (metal)	$2.50 per set of 4
Emlocks (Hive Strap)	$11.50 each
Escape Boards – 8 Frame (complete)	$29.00 each
Eyelet Tool	$9.00 each
Eyelets - Brass	$14.00 pack of 500
Frame Lifter	$20.00 each
Framing Wire – Stainless Steel (500g roll)	$26.00 per roll
Hive Tool	$19.00 each
Queen Catcher Clips – Stainless Steel	$9.00 each
Varroa Mite – Alcohol Wash Test Kit	$10.50 each
CONTAINERS & LABELS	
Glass Jars with Lids (500gm)	$23.50 per carton of 24
Honey Squeeze Bottles with Caps (500gm)	$10.50 per pack of 12
Honey Tubs with lid (1kg)	$1.90 each
Labels - Club Honey Container Labels	$0.65 each label
Labels - “Made in Australia” (126 labels on a sheet)	$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 bhv.main@gmail.com 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 president@centralcoastbees.org 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.

ABACC CLUB LIBRARYBOOK LIST

Book List		
Title	**Author**	**Copies**
500 Answers to Bee Questions	Al.Root	1
A Honeybee Heart	Hellen Jukes	1
A Sparkle Book Busy Bees	Chn Sparkle Book	1
A Sting in The Tale	Dave Goulson	1
A Thousand Answers To Beekeeping	Dr C.C Miller	1
A World Without Bees	Alison Benjamin & Brian McCallum	1
A Year in The Beeyard	Rodger A Morse	2
ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture	Al.Root	1
Ag Guide Australian Native Bees	Dept of Primary Industries	1
Ag Guide Honey Harvesting	Dept of Primary Industries	2
Ag Guide Pollination	Dept of Primary Industries	1
Ag Guide Queen Bee Breeding	Dept of Primary Industries	2
Anatomy and Dissection of the Honey Bee	H.A. Dade	1
At The Hive Entrance	H.Storch	1
Australian Stingless Bees. A guide to sugarbag beekeeping	John Klumpp	1
Backyard Beekeeping Aus & NZ	C.N.Smithers	1
Bee Friendly	Mark Leech RIRDC	1
Bee Health	Hasnain Walji PHD	2
Bee Keeping The Gentle Craft	John F Adams	1
Beehive Alchemy	Petra Ahnert	1
Beekeeping	Dept of Ag	3
Beekeeping	A. Frank May	1

Beekeeping in Antiquity	H. Malcolm Fraser	1
Beekeeping In Australia	Fred Bailey	1
Beekeeping In New Zealand	Ministry Of Ag In NZ	1
Beekeeping In The Tropics	Francis G. Smith	2
Beekeeping In Victoria	Department of Agriculture Victoria	2
Bees	I.Khalifman	1
Bees and Honey	NSW Dept of Agriculture	2
Bees and Mankind	John B Free	1
Bees Biology and Management	Peter G Kevan	1
Bees of Australia	James Dorey	1
Bees of the World	Christopher O'Toole & Anthony Raw	1
Bees Vision Chemical Senses and Language	Karl von Frisch	1
Better Bee Keeping	Kim Flottum	1
Boxes to Bar Hives	Trevor H Weatherhead	1
Breeding the Honeybee	Brother Adam	1
Contemporary Queen Rearing	Harry h Laidlaw JR	1
Control of Varroa: A Guide for New Zealand Beekeepers	Michelle Taylor and Mark Goodwin	4
Curative Properties Honey & Bee Venom	N Yoirish	1
Eucalypts of the Sydney Region	Gary Leonard	1
Field Guides to Eucalypts	Brooker & Kleinig	1
Following the Wild Bees	Thomas Seeley	1
Guide to Bees and Honey	Ted Hooper	1
Honey. A Comprehensive Survey	Eva Crane	1
Honey and Pollen Flora	Alan Clemson	
Honey and Pollen flora of South-Eastern Australia	Douglas Somerville	1
Honey Natures Golden Healer	Gloria Havenhand	1
Honey Bee Pests and Diseases. A complete guide to prevention and management	Robert Owen, Jean-Pierre Y. Scheerlinck, Mark Stevenson	1
Honey Business	Fred Benecke	1
Honey Cookbook	Peter Russell-Clarke	1
Honey Flora from Queensland	S.T. Blake & Croff	1
Honey from the Earth	Eric Tourneret	1

Honeybee Democracy	Thomas Seeley	1
Honeybee Ecology	Thomas Seeley	2
Honeybee Pests, Predators and Diseases	Rodger A Morse and Kim Flottum	1
How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey	Walter T Kelley	1
Keeping Bees	Peter Beckley	1
Langstroth on the Hive and Honey Bee	L.L.Langstroth	1
Making Mead (Honey wine)	Roger A Morse	1
Mastering the Art of Beekeeping vol 1	Ormond & Harry Aebi	1
Mastering the Art of Beekeeping vol 2	Ormond & Harry Aebi	1
Natures Little Wonders Bees	Candace Savage	1
Pandeme of Bees	Sezzajai Sykes	1
Phosphorescence	Julia Baird	1
Planting Native Trees on Farms	NSW Government	1
Pollination of Fruit Crops	Horticultural Education Association	1
Queen Rearing	L.E.Snelgrove	1
Research Report 1980-1995	Honeybee Research & Development Council	1
Song of Increase	Jacqueline Freeman	1
The Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW	Jim Wright	1
The Australian Beekeeping Manual	Robert Owen	1
The Australian Native Bee Book	Tim Heard	2
The Barefoot Beekeeper	Philip Chandler	2
The Bee Book. Beekeeping in Australia. 3rd Ed.	Peter Warhurst & Roger Goebel	1
The Bee-Friendly Beekeeper, A Sustainable Approach	David Heaf	1
The Bee Friendly Garden	Doug Purdie	1
The Beekeepers Lament	Hannah Nordhaus	1
The Beekeepers of Sinjar	Dunya Mikhail	1
The Behaviour and Social Life of Honeybees	Ronald Ribbands	1
The Biology of the Honey Bee	Mark L Winston	1
The Book of Bees	Piotr Socha	1
The Complete Handbook of Beekeeping	Herbert Mace	1
The Compleat Mead Maker	Ken Schramm	1
The Contented Bee	ABC Books	1

The Dance Language Orientation of Bees	Karl von Frisch	1
The Dancing Bees	Karl von Frisch	1
The History of Bees	Maja Lunde	1
The Hive	Bee Wilson	1
The Hive and the Honey Bee	Dadant and Sons	1
The Honey Bee	James L Gould	1
The Honey Factory	Jurgen Tuatz & Diedrich Steen	1
The Honey Flow	Tennant	1
The Honey of Australian Native Stingless Bees	Dean Haley	1
The Legend of the Hive	Maria Owsianka	1
The Lives of Bees	Thomas Seeley	1
The Mind of a Bee	Lars Chittka	1
The Super-Organism	Bert Holldobler & Heather Harrell	1
The Wisdom of the Hive	Thomas Seeley	1
The World of Bees	Rudolf Steiner	1
Top-Bar Beekeeping	Les Crowder & Heather Harrell	1
Two Million Blossoms	Kristen. S, Traynor	1
Varroa Management. A practical guide on how to manage Varroa mites in honey bee colonies	Kristy Stainton	

DVDs

Title	**Copies**
Queen of the Sun	2
More than Honey	1
Silence of the Bees	1
Honey Bee Blues	1
The Mysterious Bee	4
Artificial Insemination of Queen Bees	1
Frame Building, Wiring and Foundation	1
American Foul Brood & Small Hive Beetle in Bees	2
A Beginners Guide to Beekeeping by Arthur Garske	1
Life Cycle of a Bee	1

CONTACT HEIDI OUR LIBRAIAN via email: rumbalarabeesau@gmail.com

Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW CENTRAL COAST

Management Committee Nomination Form

2024 - 2025

We, the undersigned hereby nominate

.....

Full name of candidate

For election to Position of .....

President/ Vice President/ Secretary/ Treasurer/ Ordinary members (3)

Nominator	Seconder
.....	.....
Full name of Nominator	**Full name of Seconder**
.....	.....
Signature of Nominator	**Signature of Seconder**

I hereby consent to the Nomination

.....

Signature of Nominee

Received by Secretary ..... **Date: .....**

Extracted from ABACC Constitution dated July 2019

14. Composition and membership of committee

(1) The Management Committee is to consist of:

(a) the office-bearers of the association, and

(b) at least 3 ordinary committee members,

each of whom is to be elected at the annual general meeting of the association under clause 15.

(2) The total number of committee members is to be 7.

(3) The office-bearers of the association are as follows:

(a) the president,

(b) the vice-president,

(c) the treasurer,

(d) the secretary.