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## Next ABACC Meeting

**Tuesday 16th August** Erina

Trust Community Hall

7:00pm ABACC General  
Meeting

7:35pm General Discussion

8:00pm Supper

8:20pm Educational Session:  
*Springtime Hive Management*  
with Len Verrenkamp

## Newsletter

### Deadlines for submissions:

Classified Advertisements: 1st of  
the month.

Articles, photos and other  
contributions: 5th of the month –  
earlier if possible.

**Editor:** Dr Gavin Williams,

Email Address:

[editor@centralcoastbees.org](mailto:editor@centralcoastbees.org)

## Swarming Season & Varroa

Anyone following the DPI Bio Security Orders has noted the situation in regard to the collection of swarms in this season of Varroa mites.

In this Newsletter we are attempting to gain some clarity that will help you understand the current situation (at the time of publication) and know what you can and cannot do this swarm season.

Our major article is entitled 'Swarms in a time of Varroa' and has been written in consultation with the officers of the DPI and our club apiarist, Michael Graham.

Keeping track of what is happening and how it impacts us as beekeepers on the Central Coast is a constant challenge. With every new DPI order we look to see if our area has been impacted in fresh ways. Thankfully there have been no further infected properties (IP's) on the Coast for almost 4 weeks.

These are extraordinary times. As we come into the spring and summer seasons when our hives are at their most active, we need each other and the combined wisdom that we share together. Our club meetings are the best place to share that information. See you on the 16th August at Erina.

**Editor.**





## Dear Members

As this Newsletter is being written, we are almost two months into the Varroa Incursion. Thankfully the situation here on the Central Coast remains unchanged for some weeks now. Hopefully the DPI officers and inspectors have isolated the outbreaks on the Coast and there will be no more.

However, this does not change the reality that some of our members have lost some or all of their hives. For those in this situation, it is quite devastating. One member spoke of the joy she finds going to the bottom of her garden to watch her bees. That joy has now been taken away.



## What can we do to support one another through this difficult time?

**My first suggestion** is a simple phone call. If you know of someone who has lost their bees, give them a call from time to time. The old question, 'R U OK?' is a good starting point. That little bit of fellow feeling and understanding can go a long way.

**Secondly**, invite a fellow beekeeper who has lost their bees to join you when you are working your hives. Since those of us in the 'Purple Zone' are allowed to work our hives, inviting someone who has lost their hives may be good therapy. At the same time, don't push too hard just in case that is a step too far just yet. Remember that they will not be able to bring their beekeeping suit to your apiary, so you will need a spare suit to facilitate such a visit.

**Thirdly**, set aside one or more hives or splits to gift to someone who has lost all. I have heard of one very generous member who has given someone whom they are mentoring eight hives and a new location on their property in which to recommence. My own plan is to designate one or two splits as 'give aways' a little later in the season.

**Fourthly**, keep your eye out for potential sites where new apiaries could be established. We expect that the 'Red Zones' will be apiary free zones for the next three to five years. But there are still many places and properties in Purple Zones across the coast where it may be possible to establish new apiaries. Why not ask a question or two.

**Finally**, encourage those who have lost their hives to remain members of the club and come to our club meetings. We do not know how things will develop over the next year or so. Being part of the club puts us all in the best position to take advantage of opportunities that may arise.

This is a great time to stand together and encourage one another.

**Dr Gavin Williams**

**President**



by **Nickole Marsden** — ABACC Assistant Secretary

By now we are all aware of the Varroa Mite incursion detected in the Port of Newcastle on the 24 June 2022. This is a dynamic situation with new information being provided by DPI and the ABA on a near daily basis.

We urge you as responsible beekeepers to arm yourself with the knowledge provided by the DPI and ABA. The DPI are requesting all Beekeepers on the Central Coast and Newcastle regions visit the DPI Varroa mite emergency response website and:



- Check the latest update, and use the online map to determine whether you are in a biosecurity zone. The DPI website is [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa).
- All beekeepers within the eradication, surveillance and notification zones need to report your hive locations, preferably online by completing the [Beekeeper Notifications Form](#) or type <https://forms.bfs.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forms/12288>.
- If you are in the purple or yellow zones, check your hives for varroa mite and report any Positive or Negative results by calling the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline to report your detection on 1800 084 881** (9am to 5pm, 7 days a week).
- If you know the location of any feral colonies, neglected or unregistered hives, call 1800 084 881 to report them. You can do this anonymously.

Further information is available on the following sites:

DPI Varroa Main site: [Varroa mite emergency response \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://Varroa%20mite%20emergency%20response%20(nsw.gov.au)) or type <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/biosecurity/current-situation/varroa-mite-emergency-response>

DPI Varroa Frequently asked Questions : [Varroa frequently asked questions \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://Varroa%20frequently%20asked%20questions%20(nsw.gov.au)) or type <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/biosecurity/current-situation/varroa-mite-emergency-response/varroa-frequently-asked-questions>

This is a rapidly developing situation that will continue for months and potentially years. It is not the first time Australia has encountered Varroa mite and each time we have beaten it. Although this is by far the most serious incursion to date, such an incursion has been viewed as 'inevitable' and DPI are prepared with plans based on a wealth of experience in Australia and overseas that have been proven to be effective.

There is hope! We have beaten this before and we can do it again! Please, regularly check the DPI website for updates and reach out to your fellow beekeepers and ask "are you ok?" Together we will find a path forward. This too shall pass!



## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the **Amateur Beekeepers Association - Central Coast Branch Inc** will be held at the Erina Trust Hall, corner of Karalta Road and Ilya Avenue, Erina on Tuesday 20th September at 7:30pm.

The AGM will receive the annual reports of the Association and Elect the members of the Committee who will oversee the club functions for the 2022-23 financial year. At the AGM, all committee positions will be declared vacant and successful nominees will be elected to the new committee.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary at [secretary@centralcoastbees.org](mailto:secretary@centralcoastbees.org).

## ABACC Volunteers in the Field

No less than seven members of the ABACC have been in the field with the DPI as volunteers during the current Varroa Emergency. As a club we wish to place on record our very sincere appreciation to these members of our club who have given their time to assist. We recognise that this has been an extremely taxing process both physically and emotionally. These beekeepers have worked long days and evenings in sometimes extremely adverse circumstances. Friends, your time and commitment have not gone unnoticed by your fellow club members. Thank You.

## ABACC Club Apiary

One of the sad outcomes of the current Varroa Emergency has been the loss of our Club Apiary. After losing all but two of our club hives to an outbreak of American Foul Brood in 2021, hard work on the part of our club apiarist, Michael Graham and his able assistant, Marleen Baeten, the apiary was relocated and reestablished in the Botanical Gardens at Kariong. Hives donated by club members enabled a thriving apiary of eight hives to be rebuilt.

Then came the sad news that a property in Somersby was declared to be a Varroa Infected Property. Our new apiary was near the centre of the declared Eradication (Red) Zone and therefore designated to be euthanised.

Determined not to be a club apiarist without an apiary, Michael Graham has offered to house a reestablished club apiary on his own property in Springfield. As opportunity allows, our training apiary will be reestablished as a resource in which to train new apiarists and to provide honey for sale at various community events





As the season changes and spring is in the air, things are changing inside our hives. Our bees are acutely aware of the lengthening days and warming air. They have an innate sense of the nectar flow ahead. By now they have already assessed the space available in their current accommodation and whether or not to prepare to swarm. Some swarms have already been reported. All of this is a completely natural part of the life cycle of the honey bee.

Under normal circumstances, swarm season is a busy and exciting time for beekeepers. Any of us who are looking to grow our apiaries, swarms are a welcome part of the process. By now our swarm kit, nuc boxes and frames are ready. We have registered our name on the ABA Swarm collectors list and we are waiting for that call to ask us to collect a swarm.



### **This year everything is different.**

On Saturday 6th August, the DPI released **Biosecurity (Varroa Mite) Emergency Order 2022 (No 19)**. With some dismay we read:

*"In the Eradication (Red), Surveillance (Purple) and Notification (Yellow) Emergency Zones, a person can only catch a swarm or remove a feral colony for the purposes of destroying that swarm or colony. Beekeepers will not be able to collect feral bees or swarms and place them in a hive within these zones."*

In short, so long as this emergency order is in place, we cannot capture and keep swarms and add them to our apiaries.

In view of the above, what courses of action are available to us as we seek to manage our apiaries and preserve the resources of our hives?

### **Swarm Minimisation Manipulation**

Bees swarm because they feel there is insufficient space in their existing accommodation to allow for colony growth and honey storage. Therefore our first step is to provide more space.

By now, experienced beekeepers have already taken action to minimise the possibility of swarms from their hives. It is not too late to take this action so long as the bees have not moved into 'swarm mode'. More of that later!

There are two aspects to swarm minimisation manipulation. The first is in the brood box and the second has to do with the honey supers.

**In the brood box** the bees are assessing if there is sufficient space for the queen to lay and the brood to develop as the requirements of the new season emerge. So the first step is to provide more space for the queen to lay.

Typically, in an eight frame brood box, frames 1 and 8 will be honey and pollen. The remaining frames will be a mixture of honey, pollen and brood in various stages of development. Choose a warm day, preferably 18degrees C or more and with warm days to follow. Initially you will need to do an inspection of all frames to ensure that there are no swarm cells indicating that the hive is in 'swarm mode'.

Once you are satisfied that all is in order, remove frames 1 & 8 for relocation to the honey super. Then move frames 2 and 3 to positions 1 and 2 and frames 6 and 7 to positions 7 and 8. Into the resulting spaces 3 and 6 place a new frame with foundation wax or, if available, a frame of drawn comb stored from last season. The bees will read this as a signal that there is sufficient space for the queen to lay and for the colony to develop in preparation for the coming season. The need to swarm will be minimised.

**The second part** of the process is to allow more space for the bees to store honey. There are two ways this can be accomplished:

If the honey super is filling, remove two or three frames of honey for extraction and return the stickies to the honey super. Remember that the two frames removed from the brood box will need to be placed into the honey super so that the stored honey and pollen are available to the colony. As a result you will end up with two spare frames to be stored for future use. It is a good idea to wash out any remaining honey and allow them to dry in a safe place. Then place them in a freezer for a few days to kill any small hive beetle or wax moth eggs before storing them in a safe container.

The second approach is to add another honey super. If the first honey super is already close to being filled, add a second honey super with new frames with foundation wax and place these on top of the first honey super. The bees now have sufficient space to store honey as the spring season brings increased nectar flow.

These two processes together will help to decrease the likelihood of swarming. But remember that bees have their own mind and will sometime swarm anyway.





## Swarm Mode

But what if our hive is already in 'swarm mode?' This will become evident as you inspect the brood box. If you find a line of queen cells along the bottom or sides of one or more frames, you will know immediately that your hive is in 'swarm mode'. Once this process has begun, it is too late for swarm minimisation processes. The hive will swarm unless you take immediate action.



The action required is known as a 'queen away split'. To accomplish this you will need a nuc box and five new frames with foundation wax. It is a good idea to have this resource on hand anytime you do an inspection, especially this time of year. The moment you realise that a split is necessary, remove all the frames from the nuc box in preparation.

**NOTE:** The process outlined here is **an emergency measure only** and should not be undertaken unless absolutely necessary. It is still too cold to split hives. We would normally not consider splitting hives until October or November when the weather is much warmer.

To accomplish a queen away split, you will need to carefully search the brood box until you locate the queen. Place the frame with the queen into the nuc box.



Then place one frame of mature capped brood beside the frame with the queen. If possible, add a third frame with uncapped larvae to the nuc on the other side of the frame with the queen. Now add one frame of honey from the honey super with bees to the outside position in the nuc box and a new frame with foundation wax to the other outside position. As a final step, shake the bees from a further two frames into the nuc. Replace the lid.

Returning to the parent hive, place the remaining frames of brood side by side. Replace the removed frames with new frames with foundation wax or drawn comb and close up the hive.

This process sends a message to the parent hive that the old queen has departed with a swarm. They will now focus on the emergence of a new queen from one of the swarm cells. If everything goes according to plan, the new queen will emerge, dispatch other

developing swarm queens, go on her mating flight and return to assume laying responsibilities in the hive. At the same time, the nuc will develop as a new hive.

Under normal circumstances, it is desirable to remove the nuc to a new location several kilometres away from the parent hive. However, under current bio-security orders we are not permitted to move hives. Keeping the parent hive and nuc in the same apiary will result in some of the bees in the nuc returning to their former home. However, sufficient will remain to enable the new colony to grow and develop.

If the above strategy is successful, we have headed off a swarm that would need to be euthanised when caught and preserved a valuable resource for our apiary.



## Extraordinary Times

These are extra ordinary times for beekeepers on the Central Coast. Many of our colleagues whose hives are in the 'Red (eradication) Zone' have lost all or part of their apiaries. The remainder of us are in the Purple (surveillance) Zone where the necessary functions of hive maintenance are permitted.

It is important for us all to read the regular updates put out by the DPI and to comply with the orders. By working together and staying within the guidelines provided, we will come through this time and be able to continue our beekeeping journey.

As a final thought, if you do end up with a new colony as a result of a 'queen away split', why not consider donating that colony to a member who has lost their hives. You will not be able to give it to them in the short term but keep it safe until we are free to move hives around once more.

**Please Note:** We believe the guidelines in this article to be in step with the DPI instructions as standing at the time the Newsletter was published. All members are strongly encouraged to watch for the latest DPI updates and do everything in their power to comply with those instructions.

**Dr Gavin Williams**

**with Michael Graham**





OFFICE	NAME	Email Address
<b>Voting Positions</b>		
<b>President</b>	Gavin WILLIAMS	<a href="mailto:president@centralcoastbees.org">president@centralcoastbees.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Jack DUNN	<a href="mailto:membership@centralcoastbees.org">membership@centralcoastbees.org</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Marleen BAETEN	<a href="mailto:secretary@centralcoastbees.org">secretary@centralcoastbees.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gordon FOSTER	<a href="mailto:treasurer@centralcoastbees.org">treasurer@centralcoastbees.org</a>
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<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Barbara ELKINS	<a href="mailto:barbaraelkins@ozemail.com.au">barbaraelkins@ozemail.com.au</a>
<b>Bio Security Officer</b>	Max RAE	<a href="mailto:biosecurity@centralcoastbees.org">biosecurity@centralcoastbees.org</a>
<b>Club Apiary Officer</b>	Michael GRAHAM	<a href="mailto:mgbees53@gmail.com">mgbees53@gmail.com</a>
<b>Committee Positions</b>		
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Nickole MARSDEN	<a href="mailto:nicole.marsden@gmail.com">nicole.marsden@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership Officer</b>	Jack DUNN	<a href="mailto:membership@centralcoastbees.org">membership@centralcoastbees.org</a>
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<b>Librarian</b>	Barry ESLICK	<a href="mailto:gipsyrobaz@hotmail.com">gipsyrobaz@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Catering Officer</b>	William ARNOT	<a href="mailto:williamarnot@yahoo.com">williamarnot@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Events Co-ordinator</b>	Len VERRENKAMP	<a href="mailto:len@totalfitting.com.au">len@totalfitting.com.au</a>
<b>Equipment Officer</b>	Kim McTERNAN	<a href="mailto:jillibeez725@gmail.com">jillibeez725@gmail.com</a>
<b>Assistant to the Newsletter Editor</b>	Sandra JEREMY	<a href="mailto:editor@centralcoastbees.org">editor@centralcoastbees.org</a>



### Proposed Meeting Dates:

The following are the dates for ABACC meetings through 2022. The titles of Open Discussion and Educational Sessions will be confirmed month by month to ensure the greatest possible relevance. Please note these dates in your diary and plan to attend.

**Important Note: There will be no Beginning in Bees session until further notice due to the DPI orders regarding the movement of Beekeeping Equipment.**

### Membership Renewal: Now Available through ABA website.

**August General Meeting: Tuesday 16 August.** Erina Trust Community Hall corner Karalta Road and Ilya Avenue Erina.

- No *Beginning in Bees* until further notice.
- 6:45pm Catch Up time — (Tea and Coffee available)
- 7:00pm ABACC General Meeting
- 7:35pm General Discussion. *Supporting one another through this season*
- 8:00pm Supper (contributions to the supper table appreciated)
- 8:20pm Educational Session: *Springtime Hive Management*. Len Verrenkamp

**Native and Natural Beekeeping Discussion Group: Tuesday 13th September.**  
7:00pm at Mingara Recreational Club, Tasman Rooms.

**September General Meeting: Tuesday 20th September** Erina Trust Community Hall corner Karalta Road and Ilya Avenue Erina.

**Annual General Meeting for 2022. Tuesday 20th September 2022 at 7:30pm.**

**Tocal Beekeeper's Field Day: Saturday 15th October at Tocal College**

**October General Meeting: TUESDAY 18 October**

**November General Meeting: TUESDAY 15 November**

**December Christmas Party: Tuesday 13th December**

**No meeting in January**

### Communicating with the Club Leadership

The Club now has a dedicated phone number: 0420 840 818

This phone is held by the President on behalf of the club. However, calls to this number will be diverted to an answering service. This is an SMS only phone. If you have an urgent communication you may SMS this number and we will get back to you in due course.

Alternatively email [president@centralcoastbees.org](mailto:president@centralcoastbees.org) or [secretary@centralcoastbees.org](mailto:secretary@centralcoastbees.org) .



The Club Quartermaster, **Bruce Main**, carries a stock of basic beekeeping supplies available to Club members. **This service continues to be available despite Varroa restrictions as all items for sale are new and have not been in touch with bees.**

<b>Hives</b>		
Boxes – 8 Frame (Unassembled) – Full Depth	Each	\$29.50
Boxes – 8 Frame (Unassembled – WSP	Each	\$24.00
Boxes – 8 Frame (Unassembled) – Ideal	Each	\$22.00
Boxes – 10 Frame (Unassembled) – Full Depth	Each	\$31.00
Migratory Lids - 8 Frame (Unassembled)	Each	\$23.50
Migratory Lids - 10 Frame (Unassembled)	Each	\$24.00
Bottom Boards - 8 Frame (Unassembled)	Each	\$20.00
Bottom Boards - 10 Frame (Unassembled)	Each	\$23.00
Metal Queen Excluder - 8 Frame	Each	\$24.00
Metal Queen Excluder - 10 Frame	Each	\$25.00
<b>Frames</b>		
Frames (unassembled) - Full Depth	Bundle of 10	\$18.00
Frames (unassembled) - WSP	Bundle of 10	\$18.50
Frames (unassembled) - Ideal	Bundle of 10	\$18.50
<b>Foundation Wax</b>		
Foundation Wax - Full Depth	per sheet	\$3.00
Foundation Wax - WSP	per sheet	\$2.55
Foundation Wax - Ideal	per sheet	\$1.90



<b>Tools and Accessories</b>		
Apithor (hive beetle trap)	Each	\$8.50
Bee Brush	Each	\$16.00
Cover End Vents (metal)	per set of 4	\$2.50
Emlocks (Hive Straps)	Each	\$11.50
Escape Boards (complete) - 8 Frame	Each	\$29.00
Eyelet Tool	Each	\$8.50
Eyelets - (Brass)	Pack of 500	\$13.00
Frame Lifter	Each	\$15.00
Framing Wire - (Stainless Steel)	500gm roll	\$21.50
Hive Tool	Each	\$21.00
Queen Catcher Clips - (Stainless Steel)	Each	\$8.50
<b>Containers and Labels</b>		
Glass Jars with Lids – (500gms)	Carton of 24	\$21.00
Honey Squeeze Bottles with caps – (500gms)	Pack of 12	\$10.20
Honey Tubs with Lids - (1kg)	Each	\$1.70
Labels - Club Honey Container Labels	Each label	\$0.65
Labels - 'Made in Australia'	Sheet of 126 labels	\$5.00

We have a **Wire Framing Jig and a Wax Embedder** (electric) available for 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 4324 6284 and leave a short, clear message or send through an email to [bhv.main@gmail.com](mailto:bhv.main@gmail.com). Bruce will either prepare the order for pick up at Narara at a mutually, pre-arranged day and time or he can bring your order along to the next monthly club meeting. (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.**



**Equipment officer - Kim McTernan [jillibeez725@gmail.com](mailto:jillibeez725@gmail.com)**

**Please Note: This service is currently suspended due to DPI orders associated with the Varroa Mite incursions.**

**ABACC has a range of extraction equipment available for financial members to borrow. To ensure the equipment is readily available and maintained in good working order, this member benefit needs to have some rules.**

- Check the equipment on pickup and ensure that it is operational and fit for purpose.
- Take some photos of the gear so you have a reference in the event of something adverse happening.
- Ensure you know how to operate the equipment. Instructions for correct use are attached to the extractors. Please read and understand these instructions before you commence using the equipment. If in doubt — ask!
- Liaise with Kim McTernan as to when the equipment will be picked up and returned. Remember, someone else may be waiting to use this equipment. Please notify Kim immediately if there are any delays in returning the equipment.
- Ensure the equipment is clean before returning.
- Should any failure or damage occur whilst the equipment is in your possession, please contact **the Equipment officer** on email with photos detailing the problem.
- If it's a general wear and tear failure, the club will repair the equipment.
- If the issue is from incorrect use or damage during transit, the club will repair the equipment at your cost.
- Kim will collect a small cleaning deposit when you collect the equipment. If the equipment is returned dirty then it's likely your deposit will not be returned.

**Equipment available:**

- 2 Manual honey extractors in 2 frame and 4 frame size
- 1 Electric honey extractor - 3 frame
- 2 Manual honey comb presses
- 2 Electric uncapping knives
- 1 Cold uncapping knife
- 1 Honey creamer
- 1 Uncapping tub and various strainers
- 2 person hive lifter for moving hives or removing or replacing supers



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

Name	Contact No	Area
Ray Isaacs	0433 393 901	Saratoga, Davistown
Barbara Elkins	0419 742 388	Bateau Bay, Long Jetty
Achim Drescher	0418 224 196	All Areas
Martin Roberts	0409 361 905	Mountain Plateau
Peter Annabel	0413 331 544	Terrigal to Norah Head
Jon King	0419 995 158	Empire Bay, Kincumber, MacMasters Beach Copacabana, Kilcare
Marleen Baeten	0421 175 892	Empire Bay and Surrounds
Brian Sawyer	0418 965 630	Avoca, Copacabana, Macmasters Beach, Kincumber
Bruce Main	4324 6284	Narara to Ourimbah, Erina, Greenpoint,
Graham Bolton	0434 199 125	Bateau Bay, The Entrance, Wamberal.

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

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