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Next ABACC Meeting

Tuesday 15th November at
Erina Trust Community Hall

6:00pm: Beginning in Bees

7:00pm ABACC General Meeting

7:35pm General Discussion and Question and Answer

7:50pm Educational Session:
Splitting Hive with Michael Graham

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:

editor@centralcoastbees.org



Club Christmas Party

**7:00pm Tuesday 13th
December 2022**

at

Erina Trust Community Hall

Join us for a great social evening

Enjoy:

- ❖ Great Food
- ❖ Wonderful Conversation with fellow beekeepers
- ❖ Meet New Friends
- ❖ Share in judging our photo competition

The club will provide the basics of BBQ Chicken, nibbles and fruit punch.

Please bring something delicious to add to the festive spread and your choice of other drinks

Raffles

and other fun stuff

will be part of the evening.

Come and join in the fun



**Dear Members,**

At the October general meeting of the club, I signalled that the committee is reviewing a number of our administrative and statutory obligations. Clubs like ours are registered with the NSW Department of Fair Trading as Incorporated Associations. There is an act of parliament governing the conduct of such associations and to which we must adhere.

A club with a membership of around 250 people and a substantial amount in the bank has responsibilities that must be met not only to the club members but also to the statutory authorities.



The Constitution provides the basic framework on which our club operates. Like many such associations, our constitution is based on the 'model constitution' provided by the Department of Fair Trading. The Department upgrades that model constitution from time to time and this requires the club to look at our version of that constitution. The latest model constitution was released in October 2022. As part of the review process, the committee need to see how these changes will apply to us. Our club constitution can only be changed at a Special General Meeting of the club.

Charter and Rules: The more day-to-day operations of the club are covered by our Charter and Rules. This document lists the roles of appointments that are specific to our club such as the Apiary Officer, Bio-security Officer, Quartermaster and others. This document is also under review and will be brought to the club in due course.

Club Name: Due to a number of circumstances, the committee believe it is time to reconsider the name of our club. Full details of this are in the next article.

Affiliation: Our club is affiliated with Amateur Beekeepers Australia Inc. Due to a number of significant changes in that organisation, several matters require reconsideration. For example: the logo that we have used for many years is no longer available to us. Accordingly we have commissioned a graphic designer to develop a new logo that is specific to our club.

I want to assure all members of the club that the above issues are being carefully reviewed by your elected committee and will come to the club members in due course. There will be ample opportunity for members to see the proposed revisions and to have input before anything is finally resolved.

Our ultimate desire is that our club is a happy and fun place to belong to and continues to provide our members valuable input on this amazing hobby of beekeeping.

Happy Beekeeping.

Dr Gavin Williams LTh. DPMin.
President



Over the past 12 to 18 months we have received a number of requests to look at the name of our club and consider a change. After careful consideration, the Committee will bring forward the following proposal at the next General Meeting to be held at Erina Trust Hall on Tuesday 15th November.

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

There are a number of reasons behind this proposal:

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

For these and no doubt other reasons, the committee feel that this is a good time to bring forward the proposed change of name that more reflects our club in the current season. Many of us already refer to the club as Central Coast Beekeepers in casual conversation. Our Facebook page is entitled Central Coast Bees. Our web URL is centralcoastbees.org.

We ask members to support this proposed change. If you have any questions or comments, please email the president on president@centralcoastbees.org.



[Reprinted from our October Newsletter]

Have you lost all your hives in the Varroa Mite eradication?

Thinking about giving up?

Well, don't!

We want to encourage you to keep your hopes alive and look forward to an ongoing journey with bees. Here's how!

There are members of our club in the Purple zone who want to help you get back into bees. They are willing to do splits and nurture new hives specifically for the purpose of helping those who have lost their hives keep their interest in bees. They will make those splits available for absolute minimum cost of materials to set up the hive.

Just like when you purchase a NUC from the club, you bring your own box and replace the frames and foundation wax used with new frames and wax. The donor will guide you through a full inspection and alcohol wash and you will walk away with a new hive subject to permissions from the DPI.

Would you like bees?

1. Register your interest for this program with our club apiarist, Michael Graham

(mgbees53@gmail.com) and he will place your name on the list.

2. Look for a new site for your apiary in the purple zone.
3. Prepare a new hive with frames and foundation wax and have these ready for the exchange.
4. Wait for the call from the donor apiarist.

Remember: this program is specifically for those who have lost all their hives.

Are you willing to give bees?

If you would like to be part of this program by donating a split so that someone can begin again, here's what to do:

1. Register your willingness to participate in this program by contacting Michael Graham at mgbees53@gmail.com
2. Look for an opportunity to split your hive and prepare a new colony.
3. Let Michael know when the hive is ready.

Generosity is good for all of us. Let's be part of the program and help as many as possible keep hope for a way forward with bees.

Michael Graham





Attendance at the ABA Annual General Meeting

All members of our club are also members of **Amateur Beekeepers Australia Incorporated (ABA)**. Our club is also affiliated with the ABA. This gives us both rights and responsibilities as members and as an affiliated club. As members of the ABA, you have received notice of the AGM and associated matters to be presented at the AGM.

This year the Annual General Meeting of the ABA is being held in Orange on Sunday 20th November at 10:00am. There are important matters affecting the future of the ABA being considered as part of this AGM and associated meetings. One significant issue is a new constitution for the ABA providing for Club Delegates at the AGM and other general meetings of the ABA.

We realise that most members of our club will consider the cost of travel and accommodation to attend this event in Orange to be prohibitive. Accordingly our Committee has appointed a team of four to represent our club. These are the President: Dr Gavin Williams, Vice President: Jack Dunn; Secretary: Hartmut Peters and Club Apiarist: Michael Graham. The club will cover the costs of travel and accommodation for these men to be present and represent us at the AGM. The committee believes that our participation in this event is important for our club.

If, after reading the materials sent to you by the ABA, you have points of view you would like to be put forward, please write a brief submission to the secretary, Hart Peters at (secretary@centralcoastbees.org) and we will be seek opportunity to express your considerations along with those being expressed by the committee on your behalf.

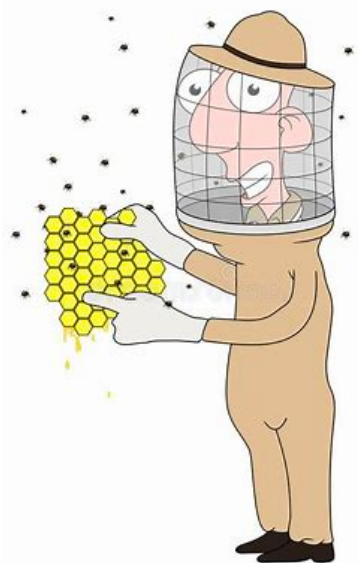
The Club Apiary

As members are no doubt aware, the past two years has not been a happy time for our club apiary. In 2021 six of our eight hives had to be destroyed because of an American Foul Brood (AFB) infestation. After much work by our club apiarists, Michael and Marleen and others, a restored apiary was relocated to Somersby. Then came the varroa mite emergency with the result all hives in the new apiary had to be eradicated and a new site found.

Thanks to a kind offer by the owners and management of **Bells at Kilcare Boutique Hotel**, we have now been offered a place on their extensive grounds where our renewed apiary can be located. Michael Graham is currently working through the many issues involved in establishing our new apiary.

Thanks to several donations and splits, we now have approximately five hives ready to be moved to the Bells site. Subject to DPI granting permission to move the hives, we hope that our new apiary will be established before the end of the year and once more be available for training purposes.

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



Beginning in Bees continues at our November meeting. These valuable introductions to beekeeping commence at 6:00pm on our meeting nights. At our November club meeting, the following sessions will be offered: Beginning in Bees 101, *An Introducing to Beekeeping* with Michael Graham. Beginning in Bees 102, *The Beekeepers Toolkit* with Bruce Main. **If you have friends or colleagues who are thinking about commencing a beekeeping journey, this is a great place to start.**

Club Loan Equipment:

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

Natural and Native Beekeeping discussion group meets at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Tasman Rooms, Mingara Recreational Club. No meeting in December due to the Club Christmas Party.

November General Meeting: Tuesday 15th November

December Christmas Party: Tuesday 13th December

No meeting in January

Club Membership Matters:

The Committee are aware that numbers of our members still have not received acknowledgement of their renewed membership, membership card or their membership renewal packs. All membership renewals and new memberships are currently processed through Amateur Beekeepers Australia. They have been having teething problems with a new system. Our Membership Officer — Jack Dunn, is in regular contact with the ABA about this matter. If you are still waiting for your acknowledgement, please contact Jack on membership@centralcoastbees.org

ABACC Club Photo Competition

Remember those stunning photos we have published each year in the club Calendar?



With the use of paper calendars in decline, we have decided not to publish a printed calendar for 2023. However, we do want to see your photos.

The Committee has determined to publish one of these remarkable photographs each month in the Newsletter along with a brief story about the photographer and the photo. Please bring your photo printed in colour on an A4 sheet of paper to the December Christmas party on Tuesday 13th December.

The photos will be displayed and those in attendance invited to vote for the photos they like most. The top 11 photos will be published in the newsletters throughout 2023.

Notes from our Bio Security Officer — Max Rae (Reprint)

I have received enquiries from members requesting clarification on the **new Alcohol Wash requirements**. The DPI specification is that these tests must be carried out no more than 16 weeks apart. Results either positive or negative must be notified to the DPI via the Varroa Mite Hotline (1800 084 881) or the internet form found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/alcohol-wash. (see the lead article on page 3 of this newsletter for further information.)

Swarms in the Red and Purple zones are to be notified to the DPI via the hotline. All swarms must be euthanised. The DPI are not sending teams to euthanise swarms at the moment. Householders are responsible to contact pest exterminators and bear the cost of the eradication.

Hive Movements: Under certain circumstances, a permit can be obtained to move hives within the same zone. This is on a case by case approval basis. If you need to move a hive, contact the DPI on the hotline number (1800 084 881) and they will advise you of the information required for the permit to be assessed.

If the permit is approved, the DPI will advise you on what needs to be completed before the hive movement is allowed. These requirements will vary on a case by case basis. It is important to fill all the requirements set by the DPI permit.

Max Rae has now been appointed as Varroa Mite Surveillance Officer — DPI Team Leader for the Central Coast Region. He will eventually be working out of the DPI Ourimbah Campus. His main task will be conducting sticky mat testing for Varroa on hives in the Purple Zone on the Central Coast.
Our Congratulations go to Max on this important new appointment.

Total College — Online Varroa Mite Training.

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

This course has been developed to provide online Varroa mite training in line with the eligibility requirements of a movement permit for beekeepers in NSW. On successful completion of this course you will receive a certificate which is a step required to complete your application for a movement permit.

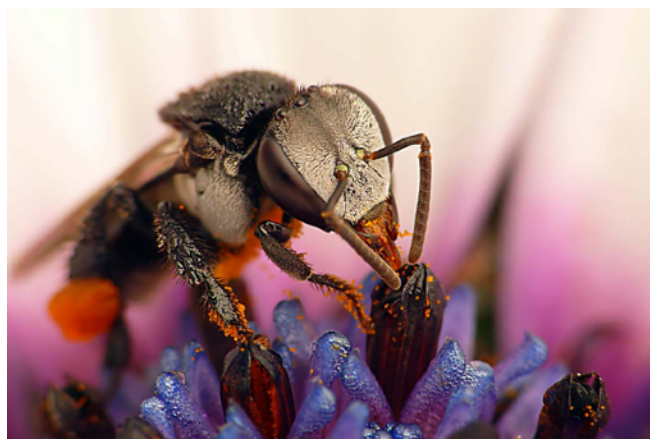
The course may be accessed at www://courses.tocal.nsw.edu.au and search for 'Varroa Mite Online Training'.

This course will take approximately 30-45minutes to complete and is a valuable resource for all beekeepers.



[From the Australian Pollinator Week website at www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au]

Australian Pollinator Week was founded by Dr Megan Halcroft, of Bees Business (beesbusiness.com.au), in November 2015. It followed on from a community project called “Bee Aware of Your Native Bees”, which was funded by [Western Sydney University](#) and the [Environmental Trust](#).



Communities in the northern hemisphere have been celebrating the importance of pollinators since June 2007, however, the seasonal differences in the southern hemisphere has restricted bilateral celebrations.

Australian Pollinator Week acknowledges our important and unique insect pollinators during our southern spring (November). It is a designated week when communities, businesses and organisations can come together to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and support their needs.

Through group activities, community members can learn and laugh together as they help to support our pollinators. By engaging communities in schools, retirement villages, art groups, gardening clubs, community gardens, local council areas, Landcare groups and neighbourhoods we can increase awareness and act on our increased knowledge.

For further information visit the APW website at the above address.



OFFICE	NAME	Email Address
Voting Positions		
President	Gavin WILLIAMS	president@centralcoastbees.org
Vice President	Jack DUNN	membership@centralcoastbees.org
Secretary	Hart PETERS	secretary@centralcoastbees.org
Treasurer	Gordon FOSTER	treasurer@centralcoastbees.org
Assistant Secretary	Nickole MARSDEN	nicole.marsden@gmail.com
Bio Security Officer	Max RAE	biosecurity@centralcoastbees.org
Club Apiary Officer	Michael GRAHAM	mgbeyes53@gmail.com
Other Appointments		
Membership Officer	Jack DUNN	membership@centralcoastbees.org
Assistant Apiary Officer	Marleen BAETEN	baetenmarleen@gmail.com
Quartermaster	Bruce MAIN	bhv.main@gmail.com
Librarian	Barry ESLICK	gipsyrobaz@hotmail.com
Catering Officer	Michelle ARNOT	williamarnot@yahoo.com
Events Co-ordinator	Len VERRENKAMP	len@totalfitting.com.au
Equipment Officer	Kim McTERNAN	jillibeez725@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Gavin WILLIAMS	editor@centralcoastbees.org
Public Officer	Hart PETERS	hartmut.peters@bigpond.com
Publicity Officer		



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

The current Varroa Mite Emergency has had a devastating impact on many queen breeders. Breeders in the purple zone are unable to supply queens. The strange season has also meant that some breeders are well behind previous schedules. Most are suggesting that they will not have queens to ship before late October or even well into November.

The matter of posting of queens may also be an issue. Queen breeders whose postage track comes through the Newcastle Mail Exchange may not be able to send queens via mail.

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

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



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.**

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

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

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

To order items or arrange an appointment email Bruce at bhv.main@gmail.com. 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.



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
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.