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Next ABACC Meeting

Tuesday 20th September at
Erina Trust Community Hall

7:00pm ABACC General Meeting

7:30pm ABACC Annual General Meeting

8:00pm General Discussion

8:15pm Supper

8:30pm Educational Session:
Using Different Varieties of Queens in an Apiary. Stuart Johnston.

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

So Very Sad!

In this past couple of weeks the reality of the DPI hive eradication program has come home to many beekeepers on the Central Coast. Euthanised hives neatly wrapped in black plastic await collection and final destruction by the appropriate agency.

Those of us in the Purple (surveillance) Zone look on trying to understand the feelings of those who have lost their bees. We cannot imagine this grief or sense of loss.

Having spoken with several who have lost their bees, one hears emotions ranging from deep sadness to an almost philosophical acceptance. Despite all of the above, I have sensed a real community spirit acknowledging the need to do this in the hope of a Varroa Mite free future.

In this newsletter, I have included the stories of some of those who have lost some or all of their hives. I think it is good for the rest of us to understand the depth of feeling and sadness they are feeling. Please read their stories thoughtfully.

The newsletter also has the Annual Report that will be tabled at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 20th September. We look forward to your attendance on that evening. The AGM only takes 20minutes or so, and the rest of the evening will be devoted to our regular highlights. We look forward to seeing you there.

Editor.





Amatuer Beekeepers Association — Central Coast Branch Inc

Annual Report July 1 2021 to June 30 2022

The past financial year has been a very mixed bag for Central Coast Beekeepers. The year began with Covid-19 lockdowns and closed with the opening days of the Varroa Mite Incursion Emergency. In between those two events have been a range of ups and downs that have kept us all guessing.

The Covid-19 lockdown prevented our club from meeting throughout July, August and September. During this period the Committee maintained the regular functions of the Club through the agency of 'zoom' meetings. Even when we were permitted to gather once more in October, it was under strict Covid protocols. Many members felt it was safer to remain at home and so our meeting numbers were very low. Even our December Christmas Party held at the Gosford Showgrounds was poorly attended.

Our move from the Gosford Showgrounds to the Mingara Recreational Club at Tumby Umbi had its challenges. Although the facility was most comfortable, the inability to 'self cater' for supper at our meetings resulted in a lost sense of camaraderie. The perception of further travel resulted in many of our members at the southern end of the Coast choosing not to attend. Add the dislocation of the Covid-19 lockdowns and our attendances fell off significantly.

Another sad feature of the first part of the financial year was the destruction of our club apiary in early July. The suspected discovery of American Foul Brood earlier in the year was followed by extensive testing to confirm its presence. Club Apiarist, Michael Graham and Biosecurity Officer, Max Rae oversaw the euthanising and destruction of the hives. It was a very sad experience for both men and for Marleen Baeten who works with Michael as assistant apiarist.

Come the start of 2022, our club was able to resume regular meetings. However, attendances continued to be poor despite the valiant efforts of the committee. We were somewhat at a loss to know what to do to reverse this trend.

In March our much delayed Annual General Meeting for the 2020-2021 financial year was held. After seven years in the leadership of the club, President Len Verrenkamp felt it was time to stand aside and hand the reins to someone else. Once again we extend our very sincere appreciation to Len for those seven years at the helm during which time our club grew from about 50 members to around 350 members. Len has continued on the committee in the role of Events Coordinator.

At the AGM, Dr Gavin Williams was elected to the office of president. Most other members of the committee continued in their positions. Bringing a fresh perspective to the leadership of the Club, Gavin initiated a change of location to the Erina Trust



Community Hall. He also introduced some other minor adjustments to the conduct of our club meetings. The outcome of these changes and other contributing factors has seen a renewed attendance at our meetings with numbers increasing to around 80 at each club meeting. We feel sure that the ability to have our supper chats has also contributed significantly to the sense of camaraderie. It has been good for us all.

Part of the change has been the ability to take a refreshed approach to *Beginning in Bees*. The availability of two meeting rooms at the Erina Trust Hall has allowed us to develop an extended curriculum offering new and prospective beekeepers a more informed approach to the start of their beekeeping journey.

With the Covid-19 pandemic retreating from people's minds, events like the Central Coast Regional Show was able to proceed this year. The Club was represented with a varied display of beekeeping equipment, honey sales and people on hand to talk about all things bees and beekeeping. It was good to be out in the community once more. Our sincere appreciation goes to all members who made themselves available to assist on the Club stand.

At the very close of the 2021-22 financial year came the shattering news of the Varroa Mite incursion in Newcastle. At that time we had no idea of the impact that incursion was to have on our club apiary and many of our club members. Those developments have only become clear in the time since and will be noted in the next Annual Report.

In Conclusion

I wish to place on record the Club's sincere appreciation to all members of the Committee. Their tireless contribution to the Club's day to day operation, although unseen by many, is a key to the success of our club.

On the administrative side, vice president and membership officer, Jack Dunn, secretary Marleen Baeten, assistant secretary, Nickole Marsden, treasurer, Gordon Foster and public officer, Hart Peters work with me to ensure that the management of the club operates effectively, despite the setbacks.

On the more practical side of things other members of the committee are hard at work. The management of our club apiary by Michael Graham and Marleen Baeten is a major contribution. The availability of beekeeping hardware through our quartermaster, Bruce Main, is much appreciated by many of us. The Natural and Native Beekeeping group meets under the leadership of Barry Eslick and is an important source of encouragement and information for some members. Max Rae is readily available with information and advice on the biosecurity side of things. The newsletter, library, loan equipment, catering, publicity, events coordination and so much more all contribute to making our club what it has become.

We closed the financial year with a club membership of 362 members. Our financial position was strong with a balance of \$ 24,633.73 as at 30th June 2022.

Having already stepped into the new financial year in the midst of the Varroa Mite Emergency, we are facing a new set of challenges as we seek to promote beekeeping and support amateur beekeepers across the Central Coast. It is my hope that our ongoing efforts will continue to encourage and motivate many to the wonderful hobby of beekeeping.

Dr Gavin Williams

President



AMATEUR BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION — CENTRAL COAST BRANCH INC

Financial Report June 30th 2022

INCOME	June, 22	YTD
Central Coast Show	\$	\$ 2,143.65
Honey Sales		\$ 1,968.00
Stock sales	\$ 284.60	\$ 13,449.60
Membership Fees	\$ 15.00	\$ 5,370.00
Sale of Extractors	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Grants from ABA		\$ 1,000.00
Meat Raffle sales	\$ 255.00	\$ 1,272.52
Calendar sales		\$ 674.22
Bank interest	\$ 1.10	\$ 2.75
Misc		\$ 150.00
Total Income	\$1,755 .70	\$ 27,230.74
EXPENDITURE		
Beezeebo costs	\$	\$ 669.55
Purchase of stock for resale	\$ 178.46	\$ 11,943.35
Purchase of stock for club use	\$ 60.00	\$ 485.35
General purchases		\$ 8.80
Hire of meeting rooms	\$ 56.00	\$ 88.00
Central Coast show	\$ 264.00	\$ 1,033.26
Catering	\$ 109.49	\$ 126.64
DPI	\$	\$ 54.22
Meat Raffle costs	\$ 200.00	\$ 745.00
Dept of Fair Trading	\$	\$ 105.25
Library purchases	\$	\$ 254.55
Calendar costs		\$ 970.00
AFB at club hives		\$ 582.90
Stationary	\$	\$ 68.17
IT related	\$ 35.51	\$ 1,336.35
IGA sale costs		\$ 101.70
Christmas function		\$ 398.54
Total Expenditure	\$ 903.46	\$ 18,971.63
OPERATING RESULT	\$ 852.24	\$ 8,259.11
BANK BALANCE:		\$ 24,633.73



**Amateur Beekeepers Association — Central Coast Branch Inc
Annual General Meeting**

7:30pm Tuesday 20th September 2022

at the Erina Trust Hall, corner of Karalta Road and Ilya Avenue, Erina

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. The list of office bearers is to be found on page 13 of this newsletter. Please consider if you have a contribution to make.

Nomination forms should be in the hands of the secretary before the start of the AGM

Please Note: The AGM will take less than 30 minutes and the rest of the evening will proceed as normal.

NOMINATION FORM FOR VARIOUS POSITIONS FOR

Annual General Meeting

**Amateur Beekeepers Association Central Coast Branch Inc Inc
2022**

I..... hereby nominate.....
(Print your name) (Print name of Nominee)

For the position of

I..... **Accept** nomination for the above position.
(Nominee to print name)

I..... **Decline** nomination for the above position.
(Nominee to print name)

Signed.....Mover.

Signed.....Seconders.

Signed.....Nominee.



Please take note of the following details for our forthcoming club meetings through the remainder of 2022.

The titles of Open Discussion and Educational Sessions will be confirmed month by month to ensure the greatest possible relevance. Plan to attend.

Beginning in Bees recommences at 6:00pm on Tuesday 20th September at 6:00pm. Since there has been disruption to our program due to the Varroa Emergency, we are recommencing with BIB 101 — An Introduction can cover the following topics:

- Hive Basics — Boxes, bases and lids. frames, excluders, etc
- Bees — Queens, Workers, Drones.
- Getting Bees.
- Positioning Hives
- When to add boxes
- Basic hive management
- Importance of regular inspections
- Importance of record keeping
- Question and Answer.

If you have friends or colleagues who are thinking about commencing a beekeeping journey, this is a great place to start.

September General Meeting and AGM: Tuesday 20th September

Erina Trust Community Hall corner Karalta Road and Ilya Avenue Erina.

Topic for General Discussion: *Approaches to Record Keeping*

Educational Session: *Using different varieties of Queen Bees in your Apiary* by Stuart Johnston

Total Beekeeper's Field Day: Saturday 15th October

The 43rd Annual Total Beekeepers' Field Day will be held on Saturday 15 October 2022 **online from 9am to 12pm**. Hear from some experts in beekeeping and ask your questions in a live Q&A session.

Speakers (more TBA):

- Dr Chris Anderson - NSW DPI Biosecurity
- Danny LeFeuvre - AHBIC
- Professor Andrew Barron - Macquarie University

For updates, follow us on Facebook at [www.fb.me/TocalBees](https://www.facebook.com/TocalBees)

Register for this free event at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/43rd-annual-total-beekeepers-field-day-2022-tickets-412575252687>

October General Meeting:**TUESDAY 18 October at 8:15pm****Special Guest Speaker:****Dr Nural Cokcetin**

Dr Nural Cokcetin is a research scientist specialising in the field of microbiology at the iThree Institute, University of Technology Sydney. Dr Cokcetin's research focuses on understanding the antimicrobial properties of honey, with a drive to use this knowledge to develop new treatments for infections caused by multi-drug resistant superbugs.

Dr Cokcetin's PhD focused on investigating the use of honey as a prebiotic to improve human gut health. She was one of the first researchers to show a positive impact of eating honey on the beneficial gut populations.

Dr Cokcetin is an engaging speaker with a wealth of knowledge about medicinal applications of honey.



Natural and Native Beekeeping Discussion Group meets at 7:30p. on the second Tuesday of each month at Mingara Recreational Club.

November General Meeting: TUESDAY 15 November

December Christmas Party: Tuesday 13th December

No meeting in January

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.

Club Membership:

The ABA membership portal is now open and functioning. Members wishing to renew their membership of the ABACC should look for an email from the ABA entitled, Membership Renewal Invitation and follow the links to renew your membership. Those wishing to join our membership should visit www://amateurbeekeepers.asn.au and look for 'Take Action' at the bottom of the page. Follow the links to join the Central Coast Club. As of the end of September, club communications will only be available to members who have renewed their membership thorough the ABA membership portal.

Communicating with the Club Leadership

The Club has a dedicated phone number: 0420 840 818

This phone is held by the President on behalf of the club. This is an SMS only phone. All calls are diverted to the answering service which is not monitored. If you wish to communicate with the leadership, please send an SMS to the above number or email to president@centralcoastbees.org or secretary@centralcoastbees.org



by Chris Vincent

My early years were spent in southern Tasmania where I first became interested in beekeeping as an 11 year old. My best friend's dad kept a couple of hives on their hobby farm in South Hobart at the foot of Kunanyi/Mt Wellington. My mate and I would occasionally help him out with his hive inspections/manipulations in the summertime.

As a child I was completely enthralled with the secret life of bees, despite the stings! I had always wanted a hive of my own. However, a life of travelling around Australia as a young bloke and then living abroad for nearly a decade didn't allow it. It wasn't until I returned to

Australia, settled down and bought my own property in Wyoming that I could get started.

I was super keen! I'd already joined the bee club (2014) and attended some club hive inspections. Then on the day my mortgage settled I went to Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies and bought my first hive, beekeepers suit, beekeeping tools and a package of bees.

Installing the package was rather daunting for a relative newbie, but I was grinning from ear to ear watching my bees coming

and going. I was fortunate to have a great mentor in Jim Hubbard. Toni Mitchell was really helpful in getting me involved in club activities.

When a neighbour had her house fumigated and the chemicals drifted, I almost lost my precious hive. Following advice from Jim, I decided to get a second hive. That's still my number one piece of advice to people just starting out: start with 2 hives so you have a "Plan B" if something goes awry with one of them.



I soon started selling my honey to work colleagues, one of whom (former club member Ed Alchin) asked me to help him get started with a hive. Although Ed is 20 odd years my senior, we quickly became good mates through our shared interest in bees. When one of his friends asked him to put some hives on

their property, we decided to collaborate and started another 6 hives together.

Word of our beekeeping endeavours spread in Ed's circle of friends and within a couple of years we had 30 hives on 5 different properties from Somersby to Matcham. At one point we had around 50 before dialling it back a bit. Ed retired in late 2019, sold his half of our hives and moved to Thailand, leaving me with 15 hives.

I swore I would stick to a maximum of 20 hives, but somehow that crept up to 25

(plus 1 hive I keep with a friend in Mt Buffalo National Park in Victoria).

I have encountered innumerable and occasionally rare beekeeping problems, and learned so much from my bees over the years. I have mentored several beginners myself and run a couple of beekeeping workshops for “Get a Grip of the Grind”, a female empowerment festival in Victoria.

I would say my most memorable beekeeping moment would be witnessing a drone comet chasing a virgin queen when I was raising queens a couple of years ago. I was in the right place at the right time and just watched in awe. It's something you'll never forget if you witness it.

When varroa hit earlier this year, it resulted in the loss of seventeen of my hives in the red zone. Nine of these hives were on an avocado and citrus farm at Somersby. The poor farmer is devastated as the bees had massively helped his pollination. He estimated that his crops had increased by 15-20% when Ed and I first started keeping bees on his property.

However, the hives which hurt the most to lose were the ones I kept in my backyard in Wyoming. They were my original hives and had consistently produced huge amounts of honey every season (100kg+ per hive in a good year!). I had also used them several times for starting queen cells when queen breeding and I'd reared some fantastic queens out of those hives.

While I have lost most of my hives due to the varroa threat, I'm lucky that I haven't lost all of them and can hopefully rebuild over time.

I really feel for my fellow club members who have lost all their hives. Please don't lose hope! I'm hoping that our sacrifice in the short term is going to be worth it for Australia's continued varroa-free status in the long term. Hopefully we can eradicate this pest and beekeeping can resume in the red zone in 3 years' time. I'm confident it will.





Debbie Bateman

I've often said, "if you didn't love the bees, you wouldn't be a beekeeper! You'll work hard for a small financial gain. But when you love the bees and cherish the journey, you are the recipient of so much more than honey."

In early July our apiary west of Wyong was flooded to half way up the brood box. We didn't think the bees could survive. But they did!

Shortly after the flood, we received a call from DPI. The red zone was on the Central Coast and our apiary was inside the western edge. Inspectors checked our hives and found no varroa mite. We were quietly hopeful the red zone might shrink a little and our apiary survive.

On Friday, 26th August, we received that phone call we all hoped would never come. Our apiary would be euthanised on Sunday. We were privileged to make one last inspection, reading the hives like a private diary.



This was the story of how, as the flood waters rose, the bees moved up and waited. We saw where they dried out frames and cleaned up mud. In some hives, the queens were able to fit through the queen excluder filling the honey super with babies. They displayed a remarkable sense of survival, endurance, determination, resilience.

I am so grateful for their final gift to us — a harvest of honey. I am also grateful for the journey of learning to be calm, having peace in the middle of things going wrong

and experiencing joy beyond measure the first time I saw a baby bee hatch out of her cell.

We are sad this varroa mite has taken the lives of so many bees leaving us all grieving the loss.

Everyone deals with grief in their own

way. My quiet faith in God brings a certain kind of joy that is not dependent on circumstances. The bees will be back. The ones still in safe zones know how to work hard, double their size, swarm and build their population back up.

They are resilient and so are we!



Members of the Hunter Valley Amateur Beekeepers Association submitted a number of questions about Native Bees to the DPI. Some of their questions were as follows:

“Following the AHBIC Industry Briefing this week our members have raised questions about your (Chris Anderson) comment that managed native bee hives will have to be moved out of the red zone whilst fipronil baiting is happening.

Following this comment, meloponists are very concerned and fearful of the death of their hives. The mental health of meloponists is of concern especially those who are apiarists and meloponists in the red zone. Could you please provide advice to respond to these queries?

Not many owners of native bee hives are also Registered with DPI as honey bee keepers. About half our Club members keep honey bees and native bees. How will all meloponists in the red zone know to remove their hives away from this danger? Will there be a multi-media advertising campaign?

Will the dates, times and locations of fipronil baiting be widely advertised to the public?

DPI Response

The Editor contacted Dr **Chris Anderson**, the Deputy Chief Plant Protection Officer at the DPI, for permission to publish his response and he has sent us the following:

“In terms of native bees I have refined a statement as follows:

- Native bees are not subject to eradication.
- Eradication of feral European honey bee colonies will commence as soon as managed colonies have been removed from eradication zones.
- Testing of bait stations without the active chemical is currently underway including monitoring of off target impacts. To date, only European honeybees have been visiting stations.
- Native bee keepers will be notified prior to the commencement of baiting cycles as it is recommended that native bee colonies be moved to the purple or blue zones where baiting will not be used.
- Any assistance the ABA can give in liaising with DPI and then notifying their members who have native bees would be greatly appreciated as DPI has no records of who keeps these insects.”

Accordingly, we encourage ABACC members who have native bees in the Red (Eradication) Zone to notify the DPI of the location of your native hives. Where possible, those hives should be removed to the Purple (Surveillance) Zone or Blue Zone as soon as possible. Where it is not possible to remove your Native Bee hives, it will be helpful if the DPI know the precise location of those hives.



It has come as a shock to many of us that even in the Purple (Surveillance) Zone we are not allowed to collect and keep swarms. DPI regulations state that any swarms collected must be euthanised. They may not be kept as managed hives.

The significance of this in the Red (Eradication) Zone is easy to understand. But there are many questions about swarms in the Purple Zone

I have been in communication with **Dr Chris Anderson, the Deputy Chief Plant Protection Officer** seeking some explanation as to the rationale behind the DPI order requiring the destruction of swarms in the Purple Zone. Dr Anderson's welcome and speedy response to my enquiry is as follows:

The rationale is as follows

1. The purple surveillance zones border the red eradication zones and are therefore represent the second highest risk zones in the state in terms of the potential presence and further spread of Varroa.
2. This is because Varroa spread naturally through swarming, absconding, robbing and bee drift. Varroa can also be present and effectively undetectable in a hive for several months.
3. We assume the entire red zone is infested - this will be the case in some and not in others.
4. In most cases, a beekeeper in the purple surveillance zone does not know where a swarm originated - wild colony, managed hive, red zone, purple zone, blue zone.
5. So long as red zones are pending a declaration of eradication, and this could be up to three years, the purple zones will be subjected to ongoing surveillance and will remain a higher risk of Varroa presence and spread compared to the blue zone.
6. It is therefore unsafe to collect and keep swarms in the purple surveillance zone as the Varroa status of a swarm is unknown and the human movement element could move the mite unwittingly within the purple zone, and potentially into the blue zone if a captured infested swarm is rehoused within flight distance of the blue zone.
7. We have allowed beekeepers in the surveillance zone to split hives and so all beekeepers in this zone should be capable of managing bees so as to minimise the risk of their own bees swarming.

We encourage all members of the ABACC to comply with these measures. If you are unwilling to collect and destroy swarms, please encourage those reporting the swarm to phone the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881** and notify the DPI.



OFFICE	NAME	Email Address
Voting Positions		
President	Gavin WILLIAMS	president@centralcoastbees.org
Vice President	Jack DUNN	membership@centralcoastbees.org
Secretary		secretary@centralcoastbees.org
Treasurer	Gordon FOSTER	treasurer@centralcoastbees.org
Public Officer	Hart PETERS	hartmut.peters@bigpond.com
Publicity Officer	Barbara ELKINS	barbaraelkins@ozemail.com.au
Bio Security Officer	Max RAE	biosecurity@centralcoastbees.org
Club Apiary Officer	Michael GRAHAM	mgbees53@gmail.com
Committee Positions		
Assistant Secretary	Nickole MARSDEN	nicole.marsden@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Jack DUNN	membership@centralcoastbees.org
Assistant Apiary Officer	Marleen BAETEN	secretary@centralcoastbees.org
Quartermaster	Bruce MAIN	bhv.main@gmail.com
Librarian		gipsyrobaz@hotmail.com
Catering Officer	William ARNOT	williamarnot@yahoo.com
Events Co-ordinator	Len VERRENKAMP	len@totalfitting.com.au
Equipment Officer	Kim McTERNAN	jillibeez725@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor		editor@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.**

Hives		
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
Frames		
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
Foundation Wax		
Foundation Wax - Full Depth	per sheet	\$3.00
Foundation Wax - WSP	per sheet	\$2.55
Foundation Wax - Ideal	per sheet	\$1.90

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	\$15.00
Framing Wire - (Stainless Steel)	500gm roll	\$21.50
Hive Tool	Each	\$21.00
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 will 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
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.