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## From the President

Hello fellow beekeepers.

First of all I would like to thank everyone who helped me with my first club meeting. It's just amazing how everything came together, and I'm very grateful. We were blessed with a mighty fine autumn day and another great Sunday lunch. Thank you to all the people that brought a plate. As usual, the salads were awesome. Thanks to Merv for the BBQ and Paula for doing the washing up. I hope everybody enjoyed themselves. The girls seemed to be very tolerant of the multiple white uniforms surrounding them.

Congratulations and thank you to the very talented beekeepers that have the best bee products in NSW, giving our club an overall win in the Colonel Pulling Competition.

See you all at the next meeting. I'm looking forward to it.

Happy beekeeping.

Robert

## Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on 28 May at the home of Robert Stone in Ruthven.

Plenty of time was spent looking through Robert's hives, followed by lunch and the general business meeting of the club.



*NRABA Members Inspecting Robert's Hives*

## Colonel Pulling Competition Win!

Congratulations to members of the NRABA who participated in and/or prepared entries for the CPC. NRABA took out first place on home turf.

NRABA achieved equal first place in the photography, apiary products and branch report sections of the competition, and a respectable second place in the quiz behind the Mid North Coast Amateur Beekeeping Association.

In the end, NRABA finished just 1.3 points out of 100 ahead of the Mid North Coast, so it was a very strong showing for the two north coast clubs. Congratulations to our southern neighbours on their result.

Thanks to Shirley and Merv for the work they put in behind the scenes in preparation for NRABA's hosting of the AGM of the Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW and the CPC.





*A Honey Bee Working Golden Penda*

Recently, my attention was drawn to some bees working pollen on the ground at the entrance to the Lismore Workers Club's Keen Street car park. As well as the honey bees, there were some *Tetragonula* stingless bees and a couple of reed bees (*Exoneura sp.*). The tree responsible for this largess is, I think, a celery wood.

Geoff

### **Hives and Nuclei**

Please contact Stephen Fowler if you are able to supply hives and nuclei to other club members.

### **Learn Beekeeping Course**

The first course for 2017 commences on 17 June. Enrolments are now being taken for a second course, commencing 5 August. Contact Brian Window or Tony Lamont to enrol or for further details.

### **New Equipment**

Stephen and Janet carry stocks of most common beekeeping equipment, as well as pots and jars for honey sales.

Extractors, pine supers, frames, serrated knives, wire and tools are now available. Please place your order via the contact details at the start of the newsletter.

### **Steritech**

A Steritech trip is being planned for late July. Please contact Brian Window or Steven Fowler if

you have equipment requiring irradiation. Their contact details are at the start of the newsletter.

### **News in Brief**

#### **Beekeeping boom**

Although this article doesn't directly relate to our region, it includes a quote from Trevor Weatherhead (AHBIC Executive Director) that is very pertinent. "The big thing is we want beekeepers and not 'bee havers' – people who have bees and don't really look after them – because they become a biosecurity threat to other beekeepers."

For more information:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2017-05-03/beekeeper-boom/8493210>

#### **Biosecurity manual**

The Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers can be downloaded from the BeeAware website. The link is below:

<http://beeaware.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Biosecurity-Manual-for-Beekeepers.pdf>

#### **Drone pollination**

Scientists in Japan are investigating the use of tiny electronic drones for delivery of pollen to flowers. Pollen dispersal between lily flowers has been demonstrated. However, there is some scepticism regarding commercial application of the technology.

For more information:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-10/tiny-drones-mimic-bees/8258858>

#### **New mobile app detects disease**

In Sweden, a new BeeScanning App has been crowdfunded on Kickstarter. Beekeeper and inventor Björn Lagerman hopes the tool will help apiarists identify *Varroa destructor* mites on their bees by taking a picture with their smartphone. The aim is to build a worldwide database to learn more about the parasite.

For more information, see:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1418874888/beescanning>

### **Burt's Buzz**

SBS on Demand has a film called *Burt's Buzz* about Burt Shavitz of Burt's Bees. It runs until October.

The link is:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/787289667914/burts-buzz>

### **Newsletter Delivery**

Over the coming months the NRABA will be working towards using the Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW member database as the sole source for membership data. Once this work is complete, it is envisaged that the newsletter will be emailed to NRABA financial members via the ABA website.

Changes to your contact details can be made at any time by signing into the ABA website (<http://www.beekeepers.asn.au>). To sign in, go to the pull-down menu at the top right of the ABA's homepage.

### **Newsletter Submissions**

Thank you to all members who contributed to the newsletter. It really is appreciated.

Newsletter submissions can be emailed to [Newsletter\\_NRABA@bigpond.com](mailto:Newsletter_NRABA@bigpond.com) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Photos are always appreciated.

### **Upcoming Events**

17 June – First NRABA Learn Beekeeping course for 2017

25 June – NRABA monthly meeting, Lismore

5 August – Second NRABA Learn Beekeeping course for this year

### **Next Meeting – Sunday 25 June**

The next meeting will be held at Hillside Storage.

**Location:** 40 Trevans Road, Lismore, NSW 2480.

**Time:** 9.30am Flow Hive meeting; 10am for 10.30am group meeting.

**Transport:** Personal transport.

**Directions:** Starting at the Dawson Street roundabout on the Bruxner Highway in Lismore, head towards Casino. Take the first left turn past Peace Park into Keen Street. Follow this road south for about 2km, past the baseball fields, then turn left into Trevans Road.

Site parking is restricted, so please park on the street and keep driveways/gateways clear.

Bee meeting signage will be in place.

**Activities:** General meeting, lunch, hive inspections subject to weather (inspections for AFB, wintering performance of three hive types).

### **What to bring:**

- Either a morning tea item or a salad to share
- Raffle items are always appreciated
- \$5 per head for morning tea/lunch
- Beekeeping protective equipment
- Chairs
- Shade (this is an open site, and shade will be limited).