



THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NSW - PARRAMATTA BRANCH

www.beekeepers.asn.au

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/parramatabeekeepers/>

In this Issue

Page

<i>Beekeeping Registration Requirements</i>	1
<i>Castle Hill Youth Expo – Club Participation - CANCELLED</i>	2
<i>Bunnings Judging and Sales Opportunity Event - Summary</i>	2
<i>March Club Event - Parramatta Branch Annual General Meeting – 8 March 2017</i>	4
<i>Beekeeper Training</i>	6
<i>ABA Fees 2017</i>	7
<i>Club Shop</i>	7
<i>In the Media – ‘Devastating’ beehive losses due to insecticide drift from cotton farms, keeper says</i>	8
<i>In the Media – Australian company behind bee-friendly bio insecticide Sero-X secures deal to keep production in Goondiwindi</i>	8
<i>What’s in store for 2017?</i>	9

A warm welcome to ALL new members!

Beekeeping Registration Requirements

Reminder: “Any person who keeps bees (one or more hives) in NSW must be registered as a beekeeper in accordance with the Apiaries Act 1985 and the Apiaries Regulation 2013. Follow the link to view the Apiaries Act and go to Part 3 Registration of beekeepers.

Source: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/legislation/list/apiaries>
accessed 4 January 2017.



‘Bee’ warned – penalties can apply!

Seniors: You are entitled to a discount on your honeybee registration

President: Peter Clarke peterandjanclarke1@bigpond.com
Secretary: Robyn Alderton parramatabeekeepers@hotmail.com
Treasurer: John Douglas bermaci@accsoft.com.au
Shop: Ross Easton reaston@tpg.com.au

Newsletter Deadline to submit material – 20th of each month

Castle Hill Youth Expo – Club Participation - CANCELLED

Please Note:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Club will not be participating in the Castle Hill Youth Expo scheduled for 24 and 25 March 2017.

The retrieval of Club property will be organized in due course.

Bunnings Judging and Sales Opportunity Event - Summary

By: Peter Clarke

Our inaugural Bunnings Honey Exhibit and Sales was well supported by both new and established members with a number of new members getting involved in the previous weekends judging.

We were fortunate enough to have Arthur Garske (our club member and Apiculture Judge at the Royal Easter Show) volunteer his time and expertise to conduct the judging for us. Thank you again Arthur. Thanks must also go to Ross Easton for organising the printing of our club handout, honey labels and Judging Award Cards.

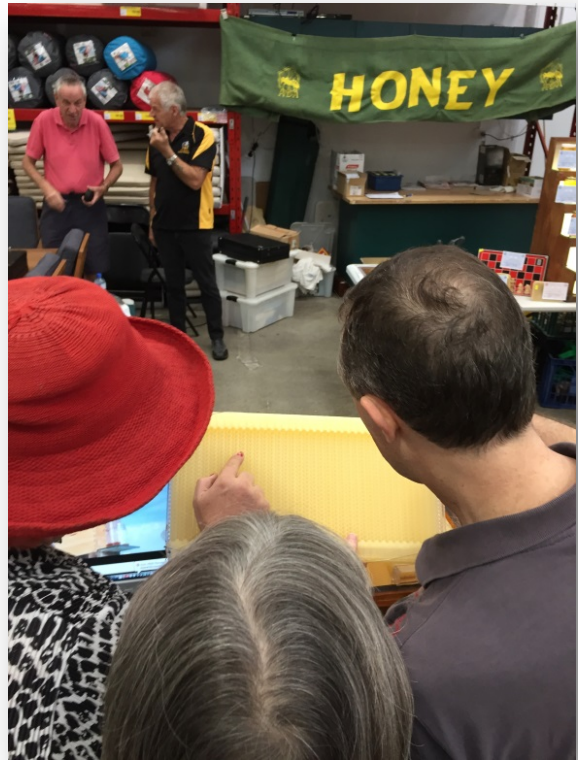
Our Bunnings exhibit included a colourful display of the honey and wax entries. Special interest was shown in the wax Chess Set entered by Arthur, the Flow Hive and many of the colourful photos of bees and honey extraction. Some 10 members supported our stand in the DIY area at Bunnings, North Parramatta with their liquid, candied, and creamed products for sale along with Candles and Honey gift packs.

Our Bunnings stand was staffed by some 24 members who eagerly answered questions about bees in general, beekeeping, our club etc and provided an opportunity to promote our club, beekeeping the benefits of beekeeping, honey and related products. Our stand also gave the Bunnings customers a chance to sample and purchase many different types of honey from the club and members.

Many thanks to all who helped make our first Bunnings Honey exhibit a success. Thanks must also go to those stewards who assisted in setting up the judging at James Ruse, the collection and transport of honey for sale and setting up and staffing the stand over two days. In support of the club funding we were able to sell in excess of 40 buckets of honey as well as earn a small income from all the honey sales.

Again, THANK YOU, to all who volunteered their time.

Thank you to Sandy for capturing the event through her shots which are shown over the page.



March Club Event - Parramatta Branch Annual General Meeting – 8 March 2017

Your Club continues to grow and improve due to a dedicated Committee of old and new, experienced and not so experienced Members, however, they all have one common theme and that is ENTHUSIASM! New Committee Members bring new ideas and new ideas will help ensure the Club's sustainability.

Now is the time to be a part of the Club either on the Committee or the Executive Committee.

How do you do that? Well, you come to the Annual General Meeting on 8 March and nominate for a position. Do not assume current Committee Members will be re-standing for 2017 as some are not able to continue.

I guarantee, you will have the opportunity to learn new skills, share and improve your current skills and as a bonus you will have FUN doing it with a Team of other enthusiastic and dedicated people.

What is the function of the Executive Committee?

The Executive Committee is responsible for considering recommendations and making key decisions about the operation of the club. Its decisions will be ratified by the majority vote of the committee members present, minuted, and advised to the club members at a following club meeting. While members have individual responsibilities for their own areas they have a collective responsibility for the implementation of decisions and maintenance of an equitable work load across the committee.

For your information, the available positions with a brief overview of the role requirements are listed below:

Position	Description
President <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	<p>Will provide leadership and direction to the Committee and should aim to ensure that the Committee fulfils its responsibilities for the governance and success of the club. They will be allocated, by the committee, authority for expenditure to \$200.00 for club purposes. Any expenditure of this amount will be minuted at next Committee meeting. They will also provide operational recommendations to the committee.</p> <p>The elected member will have prior experience in other positions in the club so they have knowledge of the club processes This role requires that they should be good communicator and be able to run meetings in balanced and timely manner. They should have good inter personal skills to ensure the smooth running of the committee and club overall.</p>
Vice President <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	<p>This role will chair meetings on the advice of the President or the committee. The Vice President is responsible for assisting the President to fulfil their responsibilities and also is the ABA representative. This role will assume the spokesperson for the club and works to maintain key relationships within and outside the club.</p>
Secretary <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	<p>The Secretary is responsible for the documentation and communication of the activities of the Committee. The secretary is the primary administration officer of the Committee and provides the links between the Committee, members and outside agencies.</p> <p>The Secretary should be a good communicator, maintain confidentiality on relevant matters and have the ability to delegate tasks and supervise others. Included in the Secretary's tasks are: liaise with guest speaker organiser, prepare monthly newsletter, agendas, prepare and distribute minutes, receive and disseminate correspondence to and from the club, prepare thank you certificates and prizes for events as and when required.</p>

Position	Description
Treasurer <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	<p>The Treasurer is responsible for the financial supervision of the club to allow the Committee to provide good governance of the club. The Treasurer is the chief financial management officer whose tasks include the preparation of annual budgets, planning for the organisations financial future and monitoring the organisations revenue and expenditure. It is desirable that the treasurer is well organized and possesses a level of financial expertise.</p> <p>There should be at least two "second" signatories to operate the account. They should be members of the executive.</p>
Stores Officer <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	<p>The Stores Officer, manages the Club's shop, including purchasing stock, pricing, filling orders, customer service, inventory and monthly reporting to the Club.</p> <p>Will co-opt assistants including members for pre pack material for sale.</p>
Apiary Manager <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	<p>The Apiary Manager manages the Club's Apiary to ensure hives are operating at optimum strength for honey production and member training. Hive management includes: preparation and monitoring of hives for seasonal / environmental changes, disease inspections / management, organises Field Day activities with new and experienced beekeepers and monthly reporting to Members. Will co-opt assistants.</p>
Extraction Manager	<p>Following direction from the Apiary Manager will arrange and staff extraction of honey for club sales. Responsibilities will include keeping extraction room clean for food preparation, honey harvesting and extraction of honey, sieving and packing of honey in member 500 gm jars and 1 kg buckets ready for shows and outlet sales.</p>
Guest Speaker Organiser	<p>Objective is to organise guest speakers for monthly meetings. Catering for diversity in beekeeping knowledge interests and experience. Plan with guest speakers to ensure that all requirements, eg, media, props etc are available and ready for the event.</p>
Show Organiser <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	<p>The primary objective of the Castle Hill and St Ives Shows is to showcase the Club's honey products which are subsequently judged. Secondary benefit of these Shows is the income stream generated through the sale of honey products. The Show Organiser organises, the Club's 'Stand' (set up and pack up), honey judging, honey products for sale, show roster, associated approvals and summary reporting to Members. Will co-opt assistants.</p>
Catering Officer <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	<p>Set up and pack up supper requirements at monthly meetings.</p> <p>Coordinate the end of year BBQ. Will co-opt assistants.</p>
Education Officer <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	<p>The Education Officer plans, organises and trains Members in basic beekeeping fundamentals. Will coordinate New Member Liaison officer and the Librarian</p>
Public Officer <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	<p>The Public Officer position is a legal position which generally provides liaison between the Club and the Department of Fair Training to ensure Incorporation remains current through the submission of Returns. Dave: They are responsible for ensuring that the club operates with in its Constitution.</p>
New Member Liaison Officer <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	<p>The New Member Liaison Officer is the conduit between new members and club activities, services and general information on how the club operates. They are responsible for welcoming new members.</p>
Librarian	<p>The Librarian is the keeper and recorder of the Club's valuable reference materials. On occasion, follows up late returned items.</p>

Position	Description
Extractor custodians – 2 positions (must be separated geographically)	Extractor custodians are required to store the Club's extractors, capping trays and electric knives and liaise with members (who make contact) wishing to borrow club extractors. Extractor custodians also ensure extractors are returned clean and in good working order.
Club Contact Officer	Member who responds to general public enquiries regarding the Club's upcoming meetings and activities.
ABA Help Desk Officer	Experienced beekeepers that provide verbal help and assistance to all ABA Member enquiries.
New Member Colony Supply Manager <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	Responsible for identifying 3 additional members, geographically separated, eg, Blacktown, Ashfield and Castle Hill, to coordinate swarm collection for new members. Must have mobile access and be listed as a swarm collector on swarm collection sites, eg, the ABA internet site, local councils and police as a swarm collection. Will co-opt assistants.
New Member Colony Supply Support Officer <i>(Executive Committee member)</i>	Coordinates swarm collection and distribution to current member. Must confirm equipment availability and have attended at least one apiary session prior to swarm season. Will co-opt assistants.

Beekeeper Training

The Club continues to provide new beekeepers with the opportunity to learn all they can about beekeeping through Beginning in Bees Workshops. These Workshops are run by our very experienced Arthur Garske for a nominal fee.

Following is a list of training courses on offer:

- Bee box assembly
- Lid and bottom board making
- Frame making
- Hive opening

To express your interest in any of the courses listed above contact Arthur on: awgarske@gmail.com Training is run by volunteers, therefore courses will not be run until minimum numbers are reached. Maximum number accepted is 10.

There is a small fee which covers ancillary costs; the course fee **MUST** be paid in advance.

ABA Fees 2017

Members should refer to emails sent through the ABA for the 2017 Fee structure. If you have misplaced that email, go to:

www.beekeepers.asn.au

and scroll down to 'How to join the ABA' (image at right)

To join the Parramatta Branch of the ABA, fees are as follows:

Compulsory ABA capitation fee			to which can be added	Optional personal insurance policy for beekeeping activities			
"early bird special"	2017 fee Jan-Dec	2017 fee Jan-Jun		number of hives	"early bird special"	2017 fee Jan-Dec	2017 fee Jan-Jun
\$45.00	\$50.00	\$25.00		1 to 20	\$45.00	\$50.00	\$25.00
				1 to 50	\$65.00	\$70.00	\$35.00
			1 to 100	\$80.00	\$85.00	\$42.50	

Club Shop

The Club Shop is open for business prior to each meeting (opening at 7.00 pm).

Members are encouraged to email their orders to Ross in advance. This process will save you time and you won't have to stand in a queue. All you have to do is pick up your pre-paid items on the evening of the meeting.

Reminder: If you choose to wait in a queue, please wait in a line outside so Shop staff can move more freely within the Shop and serve Members more efficiently.

Email your order to Ross reaston@tpg.com.au in advance and pick it up at the Meeting.

HOW TO JOIN THE ABA

Membership of the ABA is gained through joining a *local branch*.

If you would like to join your local branch, you may apply by clicking the button below.

Please contact your *local branch* for further details.

Contact the *ABA Secretary* if you need help finding a branch.

APPLY TO JOIN



In the Media – ‘Devastating’ beehive losses due to insecticide drift from cotton farms, keeper says

Sean Murphy, Landline

“To go out and see all your hives or your bees dead on the ground is really devastating”

In 2013, this beekeeper lost 500 hives to insecticide spray drift which he believes came from nearby cotton farms.

Since then he has moved the bees to avoid any risk however it has now become unworkable.

What's the future in bee keeping if this is going to keep happening? He made the decision to move all the hives away from the area.

Click on the link below to read about the largest commercial honey bee pollinator, in one of Australia's key food bowls, claims he can no longer base his 2,000 hive operation in the region because of chemical use by the emerging cotton industry.

Source: http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-18/bee-loses-due-to-chemical-use-by-cotton-industry-keeper-says/8276130?pfmredir=sm&appref%3Dflagship_iphone accessed 20 February 2016

But wait!

In the Media – Australian company behind bee-friendly bio insecticide Sero-X secures deal to keep production in Goondiwindi

Sean Murphy, Landline

A regional Australian company behind a game-changing bio insecticide that is safe for bees and other beneficial insects has secured funding to ensure its production remains on home soil.

Innovate Ag from Wee Waa in northern New South Wales has spent 15 years developing Sero-X, a pesticide using peptides from the butterfly pea legume as its active ingredient.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-19/bee-friendly-bio-insecticide-secures-sero-x-funding-deal/8276856> accessed 20 February 2017

What's in store for 2017?



Date(s)	Event
8 March 2017	7.30 pm Parramatta AGM and Monthly Meeting (followed by a light supper)
12 March 2017	8.30 am Parramatta Apiary opening and extraction Shop open
19 March 2017	ABA Executive Meeting at Parramatta
24 and 25 March 2017	Castle Hill Youth Expo (information only)
12 April 2017	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting and Hi Tech Hives (hive monitoring) Presentation (followed by a light supper)
6 to 19 April 2017	Sydney Royal Easter Show
14 to 16 April 2017	Easter
23 April 2017	8.30 am Parramatta Apiary winter close down Shop open
10 May 2017	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting and Bee Friendly Living Presentation (followed by a light supper)
14 May 2017	8.30 Parramatta Apiary check and preparation for the start of the next season
19 May 2017	9.00 am St Ives Show - Honey Products Judging and St Ives Show
20 & 21 May 2017	9.00 am St Ives Show
21 May 2017	ABA AGM and Col Pulling at Ballina
14 June 2017	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting (followed by a light supper)
21 June 2017	6.00 pm Parramatta Executive Meeting at Carlingford Bowling Club

Note: Details correct at the time of despatch however are subject to change

What's on Colour Key Guide

Parramatta Club Meetings

Show Events – Club Participation

Parramatta Club Apiary Events

General Information

ABA Meetings

Please email your Newsletter enquiries to: parramattabeekeepers@hotmail.com

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