

BABKA

Apiary Protocol

Barkston Ash Beekeepers Association

1 OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Protocol is to define the minimum standards that will be attained in the management of association and member owned colonies at Old Park Apiary.
- 1.2 The responsibility for the ongoing management of the apiary will be with the Apiary Manager and the Deputy Apiary Manager. Apiary Managers will co-opt other members as necessary to ensure that standards are attained.
- 1.3 This protocol forms part of the Rules & Regulations of the association and may be amended or updated at a BABKA committee meeting.

2 CLEANLINESS & HYGENE

- 2.1 During colony inspections, any debris removed from a hive will be placed in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- 2.2 Any member, who brings their own beekeeping tools to the apiary, must sterilise their equipment in the soda solution provided before and after each apiary session.
- 2.3 The Apiary Manager will organise work parties as necessary to clear undergrowth and maintain the appearance of the apiary.

3 MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 The Apiary Manager has overall authority.
- 3.2 The apiary and colonies will be maintained to a high standard for teaching, display and demonstrating purposes.
- 3.3 The Apiary Manager will organise a rota of suitable members to conduct the Practical Sessions for new beekeepers.
- 3.4 During the spring buildup, suitable association colonies will be split to create nucleus colonies that can eventually be offered for sale to members.
- 3.5 New beekeepers that purchase bees from the association will be allowed to leave the colony in the apiary until the following spring. Such colonies will be managed the same as association owned colonies.
- 3.6 All hives will contain a hive record sheet that will be completed following each inspection of the colony.
- 3.7 Problems that require immediate action that are revealed during inspection of a colony by tutors or demonstrators will be notified to the Apiary Manager.
- 3.8 Unless a full Bailey comb change or a “shook swarm” is performed, a minimum of three brood frames will be changed annually in the association owned colonies.
- 3.9 The association agrees to offer 12 jars of honey to the Blakey brothers for the use of Old Park.

4 EQUIPMENT & ASSETS

- 4.1 Only standard National hives with open mesh floors of either wood or polystyrene construction will be used by the association.
- 4.2 Members who provided additional supers for use on association hives may harvest any honey from the super as their own.
- 4.3 The Apiary Manage will maintain an Asset Register of all equipment belonging to the association at apiary sites.
- 4.4 The Asset Register will be held in a shared location to allow access by authorised members.

5 OVER WINTERING

- 5.1 Every colony in the apiary will be treated for varroa. When appropriate, sacrificial drone removal should be adopted.
- 5.2 Colonies will be treated in the autumn with an approved varroacide after surplus honey has been removed. An additional treatment of oxalic acid solution will be administered at the rate of 5ml per seam of bees between late December and early January.
- 5.3 Sufficient stores will be left with each colony to ensure their winter survival. If stores are insufficient, sugar syrup will be fed to the bees during September to make up any shortfall.

6 END OF PROTOCOL