

the Buzz | December 2015 to January 2016

www.thebuzzonline.com.au

ILLAWARRA BEEKEEPERS

*Your local Branch of the Amateur Beekeepers Assoc. of NSW + Beekeeping Club in Sutherland
Club Activities, Agenda & News*

Greetings members and friends of the Illawarra Beekeepers assoc. inc. and welcome to the last edition of "the Buzz" for 2015. We will take a break in January but will send you another newsletter in early February 2016 so keep your eye out for it! We need your contributions so if you have anything to mention here, please contact us at webmaster@beekeeperssutherland.org.au

No meetings until FEB 2016

We are taking a break over the Christmas period so there are no meetings planned for December & January but we will hold our next meeting in February.

What's On

Night Meeting: 7pm Thu 11.02.2016

Topic: Swarm Patrol

Presented by: Andrew Grusowski

A website has been developed for the reporting and collection of swarms. Andrew will present ideas and it's functions for the public and beekeepers.

- Supper including tea and coffee will be available
- Meeting starts at 7.00pm in the club house
- Beekeeper's Shop will be open from approx 6.30pm to 7.00pm

READ MORE www.beekeeperssutherland.org.au/events-calendar.html

Field Day: 10am Sun 28.02.2016

Agenda: TBA

Note our we are taking a break over the Christmas period so there are no meetings planned for December & January but we will hold our next meeting in February. Details will be sent out once they have been finalised.

- If weather permits we may inspect bee hives in the apiary. We provide protective clothing if needed but if you have your own beekeeping clothing please bring it along
- Morning tea including tea and coffee will be available
- Meeting starts at 10.00am in the clubhouse, Shop will be open from approx 9.30am until 12.00pm

What We did Last Month

If you weren't able to attend our meetings last month you missed...

Last month's night meeting featured a presentation on the basics of beekeeping and a demo from our IT department.

Our field day included re housing of a feral bee colony that had taken residence in a possum box. Thanks to Ian and Clem who organised the most part of the day's activity.

We also held our annual Christmas party on Sunday 6 December 2015 in our club house. Members celebrated and shared a meal, a few drinks, some laughs and answered a few quizzes on honey in our honey tasting competition. A special thanks must go to Lamorna for organising the activities, Penny, Clem and Margaret who looked after catering and all others who lent a hand on the day. Many thanks to all those who attended and to those who didn't make it this year... we hope to see you soon.

Memberships

As mentioned, memberships for 2016 are now open. Please make sure you renew your membership and your insurance by 31 December 2015 to keep your membership and insurance cover valid. You can do this online at our web page <http://www.beekeepersutherland.org.au/membership.html>

Honey Extractors Available for Members

Many people are extracting honey this time of year and if you haven't got your own extractor, our club provides quality portable extractors you can borrow for a few days. These are always in high demand so if you want to borrow one please see Ivan in the bee shop to reserve your spot. Note: A nominal fee of \$20 will be added to the refundable deposit to cover maintenance and replacement costs for the extractor, honey knife and related extraction equipment. The shop will be open on monthly Thursday night meetings and Sunday field days approx. 30 minutes before the meetings commence. If anyone needs supplies outside of these times please contact Ivan on 0419 254 831 to arrange another time

Bee Shop: Christmas Trading Hours

Since there will be no meetings again until Feb 2016, you can still make it down to the apiary to pick up what you need on Thursday mornings. However note the Bee Shop will be open for the last time this year on the 17th December 2015 and close for the Christmas break to re-open on 14th January 2016. Please contact Ivan in our bee shop for more info on 0419 254 831

IN THE APIARY: Keeping it Cool

Summer has arrived and some days in spring have already seen temperatures around Sydney reach the 40's so it's important to keep your hives cool. Often this can mean providing a little shade over your bee hives if they are in direct sunlight... a little shade can go a long way. It's also important to make sure your bees have a good water source nearby. A good idea is to use a shallow dish or a bird bath and fill it with pebbles or little rocks then pour fresh water over it leaving some rocks breaking the surface of the water for bees to land on. If you keep it topped up with water daily, you will find your bees will appreciate a reliable and fresh water source and they will probably keep out of your neighbour's pool too. This keeps your bees and your neighbours happy and it's easy to do. The bees will use the water to help cool the colony down so you'll get happier and healthier bees if you provide fresh water for them.

Recycle Your Wax

Our club is planning some candle making, training and production with beeswax so we need your wax. Members are invited to donate any unwanted washed beeswax to the club that will go towards these sessions. Donations can be left at the club house.

New Things Planned for 2016

Our committee has been planning some new and exciting things for our club for 2016 and these will be unveiled in the coming months. These include a new website, new topics and beekeeping workshops including beeswax processing, a look at bee diseases under a microscope, beelining, finding feral hives, drone catching, candle making and bee venom harvesting. An open day is also planned for the first half of 2016 inviting visitors from our community to come and visit us, our facilities and our lovely bees of course. The open day we held in Spring 2015 was a huge success in fact even more popular than we imagined so our next one is expected to be even bigger... stay tuned.

Thanks to all & Especially Sutherland Shire Council for their Support

It should always be remembered our club exists not only because of the support from ABA of NSW but also the generous and kind members from our own branch members over many decades of the past and present but also because of the fantastic support we receive from our local council, the Sutherland Shire Council. The council's support has been echoed again in recent news with a sponsorship from their Community Services & Arts Grant program to produce a film or two about our branch and bees in our community. More details will be announced as they are finalised however if you would like to be part of these activities, please make yourself known at our February meetings or contact us via email at webmaster@beekeeperssutherland.org.au

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND INSURANCE FOR 2016 TODAY

Another year has flown by and that means your membership and insurance is now due. If you haven't already done so make sure you renew by 31 December 2015. When you renew your membership remember if you wish to take out our recommended beekeepers insurance policy you must make sure you do so by the end of 2015 to ensure you are covered. For your convenience, all this including payment can be done online at the link below.

WEB LINK: <http://www.beekeeperssutherland.org.au/membership.html>

BEGINNERS BEEKEEPING COURSES

We are now booked out for the next bee course on 20 February 2016 however if you would like to add your name to the waiting list in case there is a cancellation, please email your contact name and phone number to education@beekeeperssutherland.org.au There are still a few places left for the April course. To see more info and when our next course is due visit our beekeeping page below.

BEE COURSE INFO www.beekeeperssutherland.org.au/education.html

BEE COURSE CALENDAR www.beekeeperssutherland.org.au/course-calendar.html

See you all at our meetings soon. We wish a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a safe break and the best in beekeeping to you all.

Regards,

Emmanuel Farrugia

Editor "the Buzz"