

the Buzz | March 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 another edition of "the Buzz" for 2016. We need your contributions so if you have anything to mention here, please contact us at webmaster@beekeeperssutherland.org.au

What's On

Night Meeting: 7pm Thu 10.03.2016

Topics: Discussions on Food Safety, Branch Elections

Presented by: Lamorna Osborne & others

Food safety is an important issue we must all adhere to when handling honey for sale or even giveaways to our friends and family. This is the perfect opportunity to learn what's expected and requested when preparing your honey.

Our annual branch elections are also on the agenda this month. As usual, all positions on the committee will become available and we will take nominations and votes from the floor. We need your support for our branch to continue so it's very important members attend the meeting to stand for a position and to cast a vote.

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 20.03.2016

Agenda: Full Review of Hives, Bee Venom Collecting

Remember, this month's field day will be a week earlier on 20 March due to Easter Sunday falling on the usual field day. We will conduct a full Review of hives, check for diseases, queens, broods, pests and extraction if needed. We are also hoping to collect some bee venom for use in studies at the University of Western Sydney.

- 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

Last month we had Andrew from swarmpatrol.com demonstrating his new web site aimed at collecting swarms. A great resource for the public and beekeepers around the world. We also had a visit from Ryan Leonard from USYD discussing his study into air pollution and bees. Many of us have participated in this study and we look forward to seeing the results soon, stay tuned. Bruce White also gave us a run down on plans for this year's Honeyland display at the Royal Easter Show.

Our field day was a big one with many members and new faces in attendance. We included some demonstrations on splitting hives and the bright sunny day gave us all the opportunity to inspect our colonies.

February also featured another beekeeping beginners course. It was well attended as always in fact it was so popular we've added another course to the season in May so if you missed out on the last one, make sure you book your place to avoid disappointment.

Welcome to New Members

We warmly welcome new members to our Illawarra branch. Lucy Abbott, Marrickville; Robert Edwards, Barden Ridge; Elissa Everitt, Cronulla; Erin Ireland, Yarrawarra; Amanda Jones-O'Brien, Burraneer; Michael Mallah, Georges Hall; Dannielle Mulhem, Woonona; Suzanne Peers, Sutherland; and John Vetsikas, Ramsgate.

Beekeeping Shop Opening Hours

Remember our beekeeping shop opening hours have returned to normal and 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.

Honey Extractors Available for Members

We have recently purchased 2 more portable extractors for of our members to borrow giving you less waiting time and more convenience. 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.

Apiary Report

Our apiary officer has recently reported we currently have 9 spots for the bees with 7 current colonies as of 2nd March 2016. Hives 1,2,3,6 & 9 are production hives. Hives 4 & 5 are nucleus hives. All hives are at present doing well, with very few hive beetles and no sign of disease except hive number 6, which is recovering from chalkbrood. All hives have been re-queened this season with the exception of hive number 3 which was re-queened last April 2015. There have been two honey extractions this season (about 60kg?). Thanks Phillip for your comprehensive report.

Terms & Conditions when Visiting Our Facility

We are currently shooting footage for our short film on bees in our community. This means on field days and anytime you visit the apiary, we may be capturing more footage. Please be aware visitors and members to our apiary and museum are now subject to our terms and conditions. These terms are now published on our website at the link below and you are advised to read and understand them completely before your next visit to our apiary and museum. If you have any questions relating to this, please contact us.

WEB LINK: <http://bit.ly/1nsQcOC>

Renew your Membership & Insurance Today!

We have noticed there are still a few members yet to renew their memberships and insurance, so if you haven't already done so please make sure you renew ASAP. When you renew your membership remember if you wish to take out our recommended beekeepers insurance policy you must make sure you add the insurance option 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>

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.

Beginners Beekeeping Courses: New Dates Announced

We are now booked out for the next bee courses on 20 February and 2nd April 2016 however we have announced another course for May 2015. Places are now also opened for new courses in September and October 2016. 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

We are now on Twitter:Follow Us

Over the summer break, we have set up a new twitter account where you can see all the news and up to date info from our club. We will also feature an exciting live feed soon. More info will be released there when it's finalised but in the meantime you can find us on twitter @illabees so check us out there and follow us please.

LINK: <https://twitter.com/illabees>

See you all at our meetings soon. Best in beekeeping to you all.

Regards,

Emmanuel Farrugia

Editor "the Buzz"