

the Buzz | May 2016

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ILLAWARRA BEEKEEPERS

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

Hi to all members and friends of the Illawarra Beekeepers Assoc. inc. and welcome another edition of "the Buzz" for 2016. We welcome 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 12 May 2016

Topics: Pre Winter Checklist and Feeding Options

Presented by: Lamorna Osborne & others

Winter is almost here so that means the days are getting shorter and the nights colder. Bees are generally foraging less and that means little nectar and pollen is coming into the hive. If honey and pollen stores are low in the colony, feeding may be needed to supplement the colony over the winter. This months meeting will focus on what to look for and evaluate what and if any feeding is necessary.

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 29 May 2016

Agenda: Public Open Day

The May 2016 Public Open Day marks National Honey Month and will feature information sessions on bees and honey tasting. This day is set to be a big one as we open our doors to our community to visit our wonderful facility at Waratah Park Sutherland. This is expected to be a wonderful insight into how honey can vary and how it's influenced by what the bees feed on and it's location. This will be a great opportunity to hear from local beekeepers and sample some yummy raw honey too! We will also have a FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE at lunch time. Protective clothing will be provided for those who would like to inspect the hives. Families are also very welcome to attend. if you have any questions please contact our Secretary Geoff Henning at linces@ozemail.com.au

- 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

This Season's Last Course Success

We recently held the last of our beekeeping for beginners course on 7 May. It was fully booked with many new members learning the basics and getting their hands on some of our hives before extracting some honey to take home. Thanks to all the members who continually give their time to help out on these sessions. This was the last course for this season but we have already announced new courses for September and October 2016. You can find out more information by visiting our web page below.

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

BEE COURSE CALENDAR www.beekeeperssutherland.org.au/coursecalendar.html

What We did Last Month

Over the last few weeks, we have attended 4 local events getting our message out there and sampling our members honey. Thanks to all who helped out with these functions in particular Kay Matts who co-ordinated all of us.

It's always important to keep your boxes and frames in good order so at our meetings last month, we were back to basics with box building and frame assembly, packing down hives for winter and some general inspections to make sure the colonies are strong for the winter months ahead.

Welcome to New Members

We warmly welcome new members to our Illawarra branch including Mitchell Giles, Como; Belinda Giles, Como; John Hazlewood, Sutherland; Matthew Heffernan, Oatley; Robert McCarron, Kangaroo Valley and Stuart Ridgway, Como. New members are invited to attend our monthly meetings and make yourselves known to your fellow beekeepers.

Beekeeping Shop Opening Hours

Remember our beekeeping shop opening hours are 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.

Renovation in the Honey House

Our honey house is undergoing some major renovation to the floor and drainage system that will improve the honey house facility for members. We appreciate your patience as the honey house will be out of use for a bit as we hope to have the honey house fully operational again by the end of May.

Apiary Report

Along with our existing colonies, our apiary is now housing another colony recently acquired from a retiring beekeeper. All colonies have been recently been observed on a honey flow and had honey extracted then prepared for winter.

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>

Open Day 29 May 2016: Volunteers Needed

We are committed to conducting another Open Day at the apiary on Sunday 29 May, accordingly we need volunteers to assist in both the planning of the event and on the day to make this event another big hit on our calendar, last year we had in excess of 200 visitors to the apiary which was fantastic. So if you can spare a few hours to assist, please speak to Lamorna or someone on the committee at our next meeting. You can also email education@beekeeperssutherland.org.au

Renew your Membership & Insurance Today!

If you are yet to renew your membership and insurance 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.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP 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: Book Your Place Today!

We have already announced 2 courses for Spring 2016. These dates usually book out very quick so if you want to ensure a spot in a course select the option on the beekeeping course page below!!

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

BEE COURSE CALENDAR www.beekeeperssutherland.org.au/coursecalendar.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"