

## **the Buzz | July 2016**

[www.thebuzzonline.com.au](http://www.thebuzzonline.com.au)

### **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](mailto:webmaster@beekeeperssutherland.org.au)

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### **What's On**

#### **# Night Meeting: 7pm Thu 14 July 2016**

**Topics: Assembling Flow Hive**

**Presented by: Duncan McLeod**

Duncan has graciously volunteered to go through the process of unpacking and setting up a new flow hive. We know many of our members have either ordered or considering the flow hive so this meeting is bound to be an interesting one, make sure you come along!

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](http://www.beekeeperssutherland.org.au/events-calendar.html)

#### **# Field Day: 10am Sun 31 July 2016**

**Agenda: Honey Extraction**

After a bumper season, some of our colonies still have a surplus honey waiting to be harvested. So this month we will conduct our last honey extraction for the season. The day will include demonstrations of how to take honey off, when to take it off and actual honey extraction. We will have access to the newly renovated honey house so make sure you come along to look and learn.

- 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

### **# Honey Bees in the Wild**

Recently a few of our members, Roy Janice and Mick, stumbled across a wild honey bee colony on the edge of the coast in the Royal National Park. They were lucky enough to grab a few shots of the bees perched on the rocks overlooking the bay. We are lead to believe that it has been there a number years, it had a very good aspect facing about north east with warming sun from west etc on rock. They seemed quite happy! This is evidence that honey bees are enjoying good numbers in our community. Thanks Roy for sharing this.

### **# What We did Last Month**

Last month at our night meeting, Chairman of Rural Industries & Development Corporation [RIRDC] Michael Hornitzky visited us to discuss the work of the corporation and its' involvement in agriculture and the beekeeping industry. Our field day featured some interesting tips on wintering your colonies over the cold nights ahead.

### **# Half Price Memberships Now Available**

July marks the halfway for 2016 so we have half price memberships Now Available. Members are invited to attend our monthly meetings and make yourselves known to your fellow beekeepers and the committee.

### **# Bee Shop: Winter Trading**

During the winter season, the shop will not be open on Thursday mornings however other opening hours will remain as normal 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**

The renovations to our honey house have been completed with major renovation to the floor and drainage system that will improve the honey house facility for members. We expect to use the facility on our June field day.

### **# Honey Extraction Kits**

We now have 4 good honey extraction kits available for members. These kits include, a 3 frame honey extractor, heated knife, uncapping fork plus wax cap bag to spin excess honey from your wax. There is a bond plus a nominal fee of \$20 to cover repairs and maintenance of the equipment. For more information please see Ivan in the bee keepers shop.

### **# 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>

### **# Detection of Varroa in Queensland**

On the 29th June, a colony of Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*) was detected in a container stand in Queensland. The hive contained approximately 5000 bees with their queen. On inspection of the hive two Varroa mites – *Varroa jacobsoni* – were found. You can learn more about the varroa and this detection at the link below.

### **# We Need your Wax**

Our club is collecting beeswax for foundation production. Members are invited to donate any unwanted washed beeswax to the club. Donations can be left with Ivan at the club house.

## **# Membership & Insurance Half Price**

If you are yet to renew your membership and insurance please make sure you renew ASAP. The current rate is half the normal price so it's a good time to update your membership now.

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

## **# Get Ready For Swarms**

We are currently in the midst of a very cold period in Sydney but the days will soon start to warm up again and that mean swarms will start to emerge in the next month or two so now's a great time to prepare for the busy season. We will soon feature discussions and workshops covering swarm capture and preparation of your gear. Stay tuned for more info soon.

## **# 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](http://www.beekeeperssutherland.org.au/education.html)

BEE COURSE CALENDAR [www.beekeeperssutherland.org.au/coursecalendar.html](http://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"