

## **the Buzz | August 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 11 August 2016**

**Topics: Swarms, Bee Prepared**

**Presented by: Branch Members + Beekeepers**

Spring has almost arrived and the weather is already starting to warm up again so that means flowers will burst with nectar and pollen and before you know it bee colonies will grow stronger and possibly swarm. We will talk about this very natural occurrence, what signs to look for and what to do if swarms appear.

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 28 August 2016**

**Agenda: The How To's of Creamed Honey**

If you've ever tasted a good creamed honey, you'll know it's smooth and silky in texture and it's great way to offer a different variety of your honey to people. This meeting will focus on tried and true methods of processing your honey and get great results by following a few simple steps. Members will not only share their methods but offer some creamed honey to sample. A yummy informative treat you must see.

- 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

### **# New Website on the Way**

Over the last few months, we have been planning and building a new branch website and we're pleased to announce it's nearly ready for launch. We understand it will be a major shift in the way we appear on the web so initially we will keep the current site going for a few months yet whilst people get familiar with the new site. Details of the new site will be published here soon.

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

Last month at our night meeting, Duncan McLeod walked us through the basics of assembling a flow hive and took lots of questions from new and experienced beekeepers. Thanks Duncan for this info and we look forward to installing the flow hive into the club's apiary soon so stay tuned for more details. We also extracted more honey from several of the hives on the field day. Thanks to Phillip and all those that pitched in.

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

We are now over the halfway mark 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.

## **# Apiary Report**

Our apiary officer, Phillip Chatfield has filed the following report on 30.7.2016 for hives 1 to 9. The top Super checked, in all cases the bees were in the top box and doing well. Returning bees are bringing back two types of pollen. Supers removed from hive number 7 and put in extraction room for Sunday 31.7.2016. Hives could be left as is, (ie.do not reduce height).

## **# 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**

The NSW ABA club secretary, Dave Wilson, has been hard at work keeping members up to date with the varroa alerts in Queensland. As you know, varroa is probably the biggest threat to the bees world wide so it's important to be aware of threats and learn how to detect them. If you missed the latest news, you can see the latest news here: <https://goo.gl/vsLdiT>

## **# 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.beekeepersutherland.org.au/membership.html>

## **# Swarm Collectors Needed**

Spring is almost here and we have collected a list of members names who are able and willing to collect swarms when the calls come in for help. If you'd like your name added to the swarm collections list and you are qualified to do so, please let Geoff or one of the committee members know at the next branch meetings. Remember, you can also log into the ABA web site and add your name to the ABA statewide list at the following link <http://goo.gl/gfJgr9>

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

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