

the Buzz | November 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 10 November 2016

Topics: Making Mead

Presented by: Joel Robinson

We are lucky to welcome Joel Robinson from the Hunter and the Harp to give us a rundown on How to make Mead. We will not only feature recipes and methods but we will also have some mead to sample. You can find a recipe for creating mead on our website at the link below:

<https://illawarrabeekeepers.org.au/how-to-make-mead-a-recipe-for-beginners>

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 <https://illawarrabeekeepers.org.au/event/night-meeting-11-2016/>

Field Day: 10am Sun 27 November 2016

Agenda: Installing the Flow Hive + Pollination Week

This month we will be installing our recently purchased flow hive. The brood box is already strong and our bees are bringing in lots of pollen and nectar so we will install the flow super and frames. We will also feature information on pollinator week and introduce visitors to some of our native bee colonies. See our Calendar of Events: <https://illawarrabeekeepers.org.au/event>

- 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

Christmas Party: 12PM Sun 4 December 2016

Agenda: Party Party Party

Members and their guests are invited to our annual Christmas party. The party is to be held in our club house and apiary.

More Info and Bookings at our website here <https://illawarrabeekeepers.org.au/event/christmas-party>

What We did Last Month

Last month at our night meeting we were visited by Ross Rickard from The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). We watched a presentation on the great work done to prevent pests crossing our borders. Our field day was filled with quite an entertaining demonstration from Penny Downy and Ian Phillips of an artificial swarm. Members witnessed caging a queen, workers clustering to the queen on a branch and collecting the bees returning them to the bee hive. Robert Steege demonstrated sugar shaking used to detect varroa, something we will have to practice as the threat of varroa in Australia grows. Thanks to all who volunteered and participated at these gatherings.

2017 Memberships

A notice from the Branch President

We have a new [ABA] website and a new system for paying fees which isn't quite what we expected. It's important that our members understand that the money is split into 2 parts. Our club membership of the illawarra branch is needed to cover overheads such as electricity, hot water, toilet rolls, hand towels, tea/coffee and biscuits, insurance for our club building, tables, chairs and equipment as well as funding the website and newsletter from us.

If members do not pay this \$20 per year amount which comes to our club, we will have to introduce a charge to attend the meetings and none of us want to do that. I hope this clarifies how the fees came about.

The \$45 to the ABA helps to pay for the ABA newsletter, banners and equipment grants back to the clubs.

The email was from our [ABA] webmaster and Sheila has done a lot of work to get this running. We will cover how to pay online and for those of you unable to do so, Janice Conlan and I will show you on Thursday night and help people to join if needed.

Lamorna Osborne. ABA & Illawarra Branch President

Bee Shop: Spring Trading

The beekeepers shop is now again open each Thursday morning and at our monthly Thursday night meetings and Sunday field days approx. 30 minutes before the meetings commence. While Ivan is away on his annual pilgrimage to the old country, Penny will be taking charge in the shop so if you need to contact the shop about supplies please contact Penny on 0438 207 292

Apiary Report

All our colonies of bees continue to do well. Returning bees are bringing back pollen and nectar in plentiful supply. Our first flow hive super will be added to our apiary at this month's 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

The Illawarra Beekeepers Assoc. Inc. is committed to your safety when visiting our apiary. Therefore you must agree to our terms and conditions when visiting us. 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:

<https://illawarrabeekeepers.org.au/bee-safe-acknowledgment-of-risk>

Detection of Varroa 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. The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) issue regular updates on this and many other important news. To find out the latest news on Apis cerana & Varroa Jacobsoni in Townsville go to the link <http://honeybee.org.au/category/news>

#AFB alert with package bees

Members are advised to be cautious when purchasing package bees at the moment. There has recently been some reports of package bees having American foulbrood (AFB). For this reason, a safer option is to purchase a nuc hive from a reputable beekeeper that has tested the original colony is AFB free. On this month's field day, we will demonstrate a safe alternative to purchasing package bees and showing the ways to test for AFB. AFB is the most widespread and commercially significant bee disease that is currently present in Australia. A major factor in successful management of this disease is early detection. However, AFB can be difficult or even impossible to detect visually in the very early stages of inspection.

Swarm Collectors Needed

Spring is here and we have recorded a list of members names who are qualified and willing to collect swarms when the calls come in for help. If you'd like your name added to the ABA swarm collections list and you are competent to collect swarms, please record your details using your access code on the ABA website at the link below. Also, and keep the record up to date as regards availability to do so, furthermore let our secretary Geoff know at the next branch meeting that you are seeking swarm(s) so that he can adjust his record including when your requirements are met.

ABA Members Swarm Login Link <http://goo.gl/gfJgr9>

Beginners Beekeeping Courses: New Dates Announced

We have announced new dates for the upcoming 2017 courses.

Sat 28 Jan 2017, Sat 11 Feb 2017, Sat 16 Sept 2017, Sat 04 Nov 2017

SEE www.illawarrabeekeepers.org.au/education AND

www.illawarrabeekeepers.org.au/course-bookings

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"