



Events

Please keep checking Macarthur Beekeepers Web site for Events updates: macbeekeepers.asn.au

December 2015

TWILIGHT MARKETS 4th December 2015 3:30 to 9:00 pm at the MCSL

COMMITTEE MEETING 1st Dec2015

FIELD DAY AT APIARY 5th Dec 2015 9am weather permitting (see Anthony),

CLUB MEETING 16th Dec 2015 7:30pm How to split a hive, Epi-Pen, Bee genetics, Membership renewal, bring some finger food

January2016

FIELD DAY AT APIARY 2nd Jan2016 9am weather permitting (see Anthony),

COMMITTEE MEETING 6th Jan2016

CLUB MEETING 20th Jan 2016 7:30pm Membership renewal, bring some snacks

AUSTRALIA DAY 26 January, 2016 Please see Anthony in time, if you would like to sell your honey and or volunteer.

February 2016

Field Day at Apiary ? Feb2016 9am weather permitting (see Anthony),

COMMITTEE MEETING ?. Feb2016

CLUB MEETING ? Feb 2016 7:30pm Membership renewal, bring finger food, Honey Judging, Please bring to the meeting a 500g Jar of your honey, with white lid (see Anthony), no label, just write your beekeeper registration number on side of jar and lid. If you enter more than one jar add 1.2.3..... after your reg. number.

ABA COUNCIL MEETING 6 February 2016

BACKYARD BEEKEEPING Course 27th Feb2016 Saturday 1day theory & practical workshop, with *Macarthur Community College*, book in early, 02 9826 6455

March 2016

FIELD DAY AT APIARY ? March 2016 9am weather permitting (see Anthony),

COMMITTEE MEETING ?. Mar 2016

CLUB MEETING ? Mar 2016 7:30pm Membership renewal, bring some finger food,

INGLEBURN ALIVE 5th March 2016 Please see Anthony if you like to sell your honey and or like to volunteer

CAMDEN SHOW 11&12 March2016 OUR BIGGEST SHOW IN THE YEAR. Please check club web site for tent

position. Our Stand is booked at Corner Presidents Drive/Sharpies Road, the same spot as last time. Please see Anthony in time, if you would like to sell your honey and or volunteer. For details on Camden Show and honey judging completion visit: www.camdenshow.com

Word from the president (By Ralph Skerra)

Dear colleagues, members and guests

It has been a fast paced 2015 for our club with a new team and many new faces, many meetings and activities.

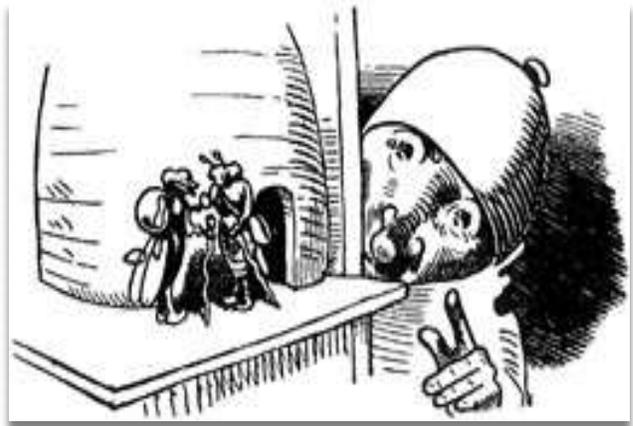
As most of us started out as new volunteers in the committee we endeavored to work as a team, by engaging in monthly committee discussions and trailing new ways to get you more buzz for your club, all the while building on the legacies and the achievements of previous committees.

To say it in a nutshell: I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and meeting attendance. It makes it all worthwhile.

My special thanks goes to our executive and ordinary committee members for giving many hours of their time and energy and often their personal funds to make Macarthur Beekeepers the Regional Center for Beekeeping where backyard beekeepers come to meet and provide great support for New bees.

Do you enjoy the newsletter? Did you know it is the product of a team of volunteers who research, edit, proof read, and publish it on the web page to make sure every member can get a copy? We would like to do more! Please let us know if you have a topic, a photo or personal experience that you would like to share. Let everyone know - place it in the news letter.

Oh a very special note of appreciation and a big thank you to our members working in the background by providing finger licking food at meetings, help with the dishes and setting up on site, working on fairs and in the honey room. You are the true back bone of this operation.



This year, our membership numbers have grown by well over 20%. Please keep introducing yourself to a new person each meeting and try to make a new friend. It is also nice to welcome back “new faces” that have been members longer than some of us. I see this as an endorsement that Macarthur Beekeepers can offer the right mix of education and club atmos-flair.

Speaking for the committee we like to thank our members new and veterans for their consideration and continued support as we are undertaking changes in club directives. As we grow we are eagerly working to improve our membership management techniques and meet the various challenges presented to the committee.

In my role as president I am delighted to be part of Macarthur Beekeepers and like to extend the invitation to each member to take up a more active role in the club. If you would like to be part of a dedicated team feel free to contact myself or any one of the executive committee members. Enjoy the harvest. Enjoy the news

letter and sweet festive greetings right into 2016.

Seasonal Activities

This is your full season activities alert! Everything from swarm prevention, harvesting honey, disease inspection, hive splitting and honey filling should be on our minds.

After extraction all “Stickies” go back onto the hives for cleaning and more honey storage as quickly as possible. You may like to apply barrier or partial barrier techniques.

With full honey flow all colonies (except for nukes and post swarming colonies) should be large, strong and busy. If they are not, consider improving them by adding bees or capped brood from a strong colony or join them with another small colony to make one.

Only ever join bees, stickies, frames or brood that are healthy and free of pests.

Buddy up with another beekeeper next time you open your hive. Wax moth *Achroia grisella* and its big cousin *Galleria mellonella*, plus hive beetles are right now invading your hives. Check for unusual dirt in front or on the bottom board. Reset your traps and inspect the brood area.



Read more in Dave Wilson’s (ABA Secretary) article in the ABA news letter Volume 53, Issue 3 December 2015 / January 2016 go to www.beekeepers.asn.au .

If you have any questions on beekeeping why not send your question in to vicepresident@macbeekeepers.asn.au? Other may like to know the answers as well.

Motto for 2016

Read More + Meet More = Learn More

Making money from honey

Keeping bees can be a successful income even for a small backyard or acreage, but there's a lot to know before you make actual money from beekeeping. There are the basics keeping bees and the how-to of producing bee products such as honey and beeswax, pollination of crops, and raising bees and queens for sale. Here are some suggestion:

Start small! Beekeeping isn't for everyone. One of the first steps you should take as a potential beekeeping business owner is to keep bees on a hobby or small scale for a few seasons. Aspire to become a good beekeeper first, before having many hives or a lot of honey. Learn to work with your bees not for them or against them. Keep track of your costs. This allows you to get a true picture of the potential. Manage a few hives well, before you invest and scale up.

Adding any new species to your garden or land is a tough decision; to know whether you'll eventually regret the addition or celebrate it.

Be clear about why you like to keep bees? Beekeepers, in a bee suit, don't look sexy, are sweaty, sticky and get stung and the novelty of the topic among your friends and family wears off quickly.



of



"Of course, for the honey" you say. "that's obvious". But there's more to it. Keeping bees is good for your garden and crops, too. They help pollinate vegetables and flowers and may help increase your yields.

Honey, honeybees, beeswax and other bee-related products like propolis tincture and beeswax-based beauty products can supplement your income. Many backyard beekeepers find bees to be a rewarding and productive income.

To be efficient, stay focused. Your initial design and set up can be fun and an adventure but, your investment later on should be aimed at one or two main product lines.

Time to care for Hives: Some say that bees need "more time than you need to care for your cat, but less time than needed to take good care of your dog." May be its best to join up with an experienced beekeeper in your area.

The amount of time required to keep bees depends where you have your bees and on the method you're using. Let's say you are starting off small (2 hives), your bees are stationary and in the southern area of Sydney



NSW, within flight distance of established garden, as a ballpark:
*allow for fortnightly inspections during mid spring to mid autumn 20 min/colony if everything is ok * and monthly inspections any during the rest of the year, allow for a min. of 2 boxes of honey to be extracted 2 hours/colony/year. * allow for filling, box and frame maintenance and wax work.

Bee Stings: On a serious note; although you can position the hives to minimize human contact, there is the risk that someone could get stung even when not tending to the bees. If anyone in your family or close circle of friends is highly allergic to bee stings, this might be one venture to cross off your list, for obvious reasons.

How much does it cost to get started? This varies, again, depending on the method you choose. Most people start with two hives so they can compare how they're doing. Check our sponsors product range and offers. Some start all out for their first two hives by spending \$500 to \$1000. Others acquire used hive boxes and equipment and start with swarms. The cost for the honey extraction can be as little as a few buckets and bowls to a couple of hundred \$ or more elaborate set ups up to \$1500.

If you are critical about how you spend your money, spend it on a reputable backyard beekeeping beginner course. The costs and courses on offer vary from less than \$150 to over \$500 per course. Many perils can be avoided by an early sound fundamental understanding of bee husbandry.

As the honey turns into money and covers the investments you've made. Continue by planning your expansion. Always remember, you'll make enough honey to pay back those costs. Just do it one step at a time, season by season.

Very important is to: *read more *meet more *learn more. To minimize startup costs, consider alternative, natural methods that may require less outlay of cash.

Be realistic about your budget: *Keep track of your costs. *spend as little as possible in the beginning *invest and expand when you are selling honey. After all one seldom knows a new venture well enough in the beginning.

There is always a limit to nectar and pollen. Get to know your seasonal limitations. How many hives can realistically be stationed in your area (stocking rate). Are there other beekeepers close by? How many and which months yield pollen and nectar?

Several different apiaries kilometers apart may not always improve your bottom dollar. Plan for a minimum of 6 to 10 trips/year/apiary multiplied by your vehicle cost + fuel + time per trip, then add that to your standard processing costs (Glass Lid buckets, labels, time, electricity, insurance, education/club, your \$ investment/3 years and in case of common beekeepers \$ for pesticides and medication)

The sticky topic of prices:

- No one benefits from honey dumped cheaply onto the market.
- You'll never beat Aldi honey prices.
- Take pride in your product. If you have reasons to value your product, your customer will respect that. Remember: Value for money.
- No man is an island so why upset your fellow beekeepers.



- If you don't care about your time or the value of your investment or your running costs, that is of course your choice. You may run out of money quickly. You will definitely devalue beekeeping and its products in the eyes of the public.
- Communicate the quality of your product to your customers by appropriate pricing, non-sticky, quality packaging and labels
- Luckily, beekeeping can produce high quality products and the public want small beekeepers to provide high quality products.

Meet with your local beekeeping organization By working with other beekeepers can get support and learn about:

- how to set up your 1st beehives
- where to source bees and your gear
- about beekeeping tasks
- government regulations, insurances
- bee needs like food, space, techniques
- www.beekeepers.asn.au
- macbeekeepers.asn.au

Do the right thing and pass on your experiences to other beekeepers and mentor new beekeepers.

Contact your local education providers: before planning to expand into your small business it is prudent to take a course in Small Business Management. Check out a Recognised Training Organisation (RTO) or your local Community College (e.g. MCC). This will give you the tools to avoid pitfalls when estimating real costs & profit, it will improve your business practices, your marketing skills and sales techniques. You learn about money matters and gain knowledge of government legislation.

Source material from <http://smallfarm.about.com> narrated by Beekeeper Selection

News from your ABA www.beekeepers.asn.au

If you have not yet had a chance to read the ABA news letter here are some of the other topics:

Strange Swarms	4
Beekeeping in Kashmir: Heaven on earth	6
A comparison between Native bee (<i>Trigona carbonaria</i>) renamed to <i>Tetragonula carbonaria</i> vs introduced European Honey Bee (<i>Apis mellifera</i>)	8
The ABA and technology	14
Climate variability and bees: dealing with weather extremes	15
The Australasian Beekeeper	17
Winter Honey Flows – by Norm Webb	19
External beekeeping courses available	20
From the Inveterate Inventor – Insulated bee box lids	22
DPI Registration discount for seniors	23
ABA capitation and insurance fees - 2016	23
Pre-loved beekeeping gear – For Sale!	23
In the Media – Tamworth a Buzz	24
In the Media – Beekeeping may go back to the early years of agriculture, up to 9000 years ago	25
In the Media – The spiritual and historical significance of the bee	27

In the Media –buzzing about success of program for native bee <i>Tetragonula carbonaria</i>	29
In the Media – Bees struggle to produce honey as lack of rain takes	31
In the Media – Healthy bee population proves good for exports	32
In the Media – Honey, Have you got ID?	33
In the Media – Beekeepers to bolster productivity with new training videos .	34
In the Media – Chalkbrood: BEE involved	35
In the Media – Bee pest surveillance system under review	36
In the Media – Cedar Anderson: From humble hippie to multi-millionaire businessman – the man who revolutionised the beehive	37
In the Media – ACT Beekeepers collect swarms to maintain healthy worker population.	37
In the Media – Little vials of bee semen key to Varroa fight	39

Signs of Anaphylaxis

When someone has whole-body (systemic, or anaphylaxis) allergic reactions to insect stings, they may experience any or all of the following symptoms, usually within a matter of minutes to a few hours:

- itching all over,
- hives or swelling that spreads from the site of the sting,
- flushing,
- runny nose, sneezing or post-nasal drip,
- itchy/watery eyes,
- swelling of the lips, tongue or throat,
- shortness of breath, wheezing or coughing,
- stomach cramping, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea,
- light headedness, fast heart rate, low blood pressure or passing out,
- sense of panic or metallic taste in the mouth.

The information provided is intended as general information not as medical advice. To be sure, consult your doctor.



Quiz: Do you know these bee hives, how they work and their advantages?



Free Training - Smart and Skilled funding package

There is an opportunity for NSW beekeepers to obtain VET part qualifications in beekeeping for FREE under a new Government Smart and Skilled funding package. Tocal College is collating documentation in support of a proposal that will seek funds from Smart and Skilled to enable Tocal College to deliver fully subsidised courses throughout 2016. To enable a submission to be lodged, expressions of interest from those wishing to undertake this training, should be forwarded to: Miskell Hampton on email: vicepresident@macbeekeepers.asn.au These Units do stand alone however, those completing 'Beginning in Bees' and 'Pests and Diseases of Honey Bees' (referred to above) would receive 3 units of competency towards a Certificate III in Beekeeping.

“Just go and plant flowers “

Pesticides and bee diseases seem to draw the most attention as the cause of declining bee numbers. But nutritional stress could be another.

Habitat loss, mono-cropping and intensified agriculture lead to diminishing landscapes and farm land with food resources for bees. This additional stress lowers the bee's resistance to pesticides and diseases.

Vast stretches of public landscapes and modern private gardens are designed Bee Deserts.

Honey bees are like representative for the other 19,900-plus species of native bees and to a some extend for 1.5million insect species worldwide. Now there is nothing about people that draws bees to humans, but there's something about bees that draws people into their world.

It used to be just honey, that attracted people to bees, then it became evident that the honey bee is the undisputed champion of pollination of our foods. Now bees are a commodity to make money with. The relationship has changed from appreciating the little creatures and taking their surplus honey to industrialising them for pollination.

In the United States, Australia's trend setter for agriculture and housing developments, bees have been reported in decline since World War II. Only half the number of managed hives in the United States now compared to 1945. In addition there has been an increased demand on landscape for the 300 % increase in crop production.

Predominantly wind pollinated crops. Hedges, clean water ways and cover crops like clover and alfalfa have disappeared from the farm landscape

that is now dominated by one or two plant species like fruit or nut trees, corn and soybeans. Do you allow cover crop in between your garden flowers and veggies?



Herbicides kill off the weeds therefore reducing bio diversity of bee food plants and the chemical residue ends up in the water, pollen or the nectar bees collect for their brood. Pesticides on a large scale are necessary because of the monocultures that attract vast numbers of specialized pests.

Adult bees need mainly carbohydrates, and sugars in nectar provide energy for foraging and thermoregulation. Their larvae need protein, fats, vitamins and minerals for growth. These nutrients come from pollen. Among solitary bees, larvae are the main pollen consumers. With honey bees the main consumers are nurse bees, young workers who digest pollen and produce jelly that they feed to the larvae, also known as brood.

Both the quality and quantity of bee food is important. Having no flowers is devastating. Lots of the same flower is not enough.

Today beekeeper's topics are: *how many hives you have, *how much money do you get for honey *how much honey did you make. While happily spraying insecticides and round up. Few discussions are about beekeeping being part of the destructive course, or about alternative beekeeping techniques and possible advantages, or honey quality, or bee health, what tree we planted to provide food.



of

In our small scale operations and decision making, we can follow the industry driven by demand and by money, or we don't. There are many of us. Our individual choices make the difference!

"Plant bee-friendly flowers..", says Marla Spivak (Distinguished McKnight University Professor Apiculture) "and don't contaminate your flowers with pesticides, it is bee food !

".... go online and search for flowers that are native to your area and plant them. Plant them in a pot on your doorstep. Plant them in your front yard, in your lawns, in your street.

Campaign to have them planted in public gardens, community spaces, meadows. Set aside farmland.

We need a beautiful diversity of flowers that blooms over the entire growing season, from spring to fall. We need roadsides seeded in flowers for our bees, but also for migrating butterflies and birds and other wildlife.

And we need to think carefully about putting back in cover crops to nourish our soil and nourish our bees. And we need to diversify our farms. We need to plant flowering crop borders and hedge rows to disrupt the agricultural food desert and begin to correct the dysfunctional food system and bee deserts that we create.

So maybe it seems like a really small countermeasure to a huge problem -- just go plant flowers -- but when bees have access to good nutrition, we have access to good nutrition through their pollination services. And when bees have access to good nutrition, they're better able to engage their own natural defences, their healthcare that they have relied on for millions of years."

Beekeepers unable to meet crop pollination requirements as honey production at risk from sprays

Tasmanian Crop Pollinators Association president Julian Wolfhagen said plantings of fruit, seed, and grain crops were expanding, and pollinators were under pressure to meet the demand. But he said hundreds of hives had been lost to agricultural chemical spray incidents with some reputable pollinators withdrawing to avoid the risk. He said he felt a moral obligation to support the districts' farmers with pollination services, but he also had a valuable honey market to supply which clashed with crop pollination. Read more : <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-10-22/bee-pollination-pressure-chemical-spray>

What makes a queen bee?

For decades, it was thought that an excess of a substance called royal jelly elevated a regular honey bee larva to a queen. However, new research suggests that it is what future queens are *not* fed that matters. Not feeding an immature queen pollen and honey is what makes her a queen. P.S. So royal jelly doesn't not turn a worker bee into a queen but did you know that royal jelly also is sold as an aphrodisiac, and like most erotic insect products, it's applied with "vigorous rubbing." That makes it hard to tell just how upstanding the evidence is. Read more <http://www.wired.com>

Humans have been using honeybee products for more than 7,000 years__SPIEGEL ONLINE - 12.11.2015

Previously the use of bee products was dated to around 2400BC with ancient Egyptian murals and iconography depicting beekeeping.

However, scientists reveal today in Nature that based on an analysis of ancient pottery this date can be pushed back by almost 5,000 years. Honey residue from that far back is not traceable as it is water soluble, but bees wax used for shaping pottery or casting of metal objects is.

Dr Melanie Roffet-Salque, from the School of Chemistry at the University of Bristol in the UK, said although the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) was the most studied of social insects, debate was still ongoing over the origins of the bee-human relationship.

"The honeybee holds a unique place in human culture," she said. "Notwithstanding its present-day economic importance, it has been revered over the millennia for the sheer beauty and complexity of the social organisation within its colonies."

Dr Roffet-Salque said their work showed a regular association between honeybees and humans developed as the Neolithic agriculture-based society emerged and moved from the Near East around 6800BC and finished around 3500BC in the UK. Source article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-12/human-use-of-honeybee-products>

Biggest Event for Macarthur Beekeepers



Please see Anthony in time, if you would like to sell your honey and or to volunteer at Camden Show. Prepare your honey samples for the Camden Show Honey Judging completion. For details on Camden Show and honey judging completion visit: www.camdenshow.com

Check out the new stunning ABA web site

We have a new look for our ABA web site check it out: <http://www.beekeepers.asn.au>

Call off the bee-apocalypse: U.S. honeybee colonies hit a 20-year high

USA reporter Christopher Ingraham from the Washington Post reports to have found indicators of CCD (Colony Collapse Disorder) recovery. There is a steady increase of bee colonies used for pollination in the USA to meet the increase in agriculture demand. The article fails to show that close to half of bee colony numbers are lost in the USA since 1946.

In true tabloid fashion the clues come with the article. The article comments on the increased efforts and costs necessary for beekeepers to counter act the continued devastating bee losses and on top of it trying to meet the increasing demand for colonies for pollination is driving beekeepers out of business. Honey prices go up. Also the demand for honey goes up with population growth. The industry reacts effectively to Colony Collapse Disorder by increasing its unnatural beekeeping processes to even greater scale. Rather than the light at the tunnel for bees worldwide it looks more like the next freight train. Read more:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/07/23/call-off-the-bee-pocalypse>

Happy festive season to every body

wishes to all for a safe and very merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy and prosperous 2016 from the all the committee