



Diary Dates

Club Meeting

15th July 2015, Wednesday Guest Speaker: Dave Wilson Secretary ABA 7:30pm 1 Mt. Anan Drive Mt Anan Ralph 0450 501 330

Field Day Club Apiary Note: New Date!

1st August 2015 Saturday 9am Hive Inspection, weather permitting at 1 Mt. Anan Drive Mt Anan NSW Anthony 0412 577 828 apiary@macbeekeepers.asn.au • Club Meeting

Club Meeting

19th August 2015, Guest Speaker Dr Lamorna Osborne "Medical Honey"

Tim's Garden Centre

29th August 2015 Saturday Campbelltown, Beekeeping, demonstrations, members are invited to participate and make it a great Meet the Public Event Why and what to bring? Contact Caroline 0402 855 093 secretary@macbeekeepers.asn.au

Riverfest

29th August 2015 Saturday Campbelltown see Anthony for details

Harrington Grove

30th August 2015 Sunday. This will be our first visit to this inaugural fair. See Lindsay for further details.

Tamworth Branch Field Day

12th September 2015 Saturday NSW DPI Advisory Officer, Doug Somerville will be holding the Field day, at the Tamworth Agricultural Institute (DPI) 4 Marsden Park Road, Tamworth NSW 2340 Ray Hull on 0407 469 176, RSVP Norm Maher 0447603245 normmaher@hotmail.com

Club Meeting

16th September 2015 Wednesday 7:30pm, Power Point Presentation by Eddie Sijnstra

Field Day

3rd October 2015 Saturday 9am at Club Apiary, weather permitting contact Anthony 0412 577 828 apiary@macbeekeepers.asn.au

Club Meeting

21st October 2015 Wednesday 7:30pm, Would you like to pick a topic for this meeting? please contact Miskell 0437 913 831 vicepresident@macbeekeepers.asn.au

Total Beekeeping Field Day

24th October 2015 Saturday Hop on the bus with Anthony 0412577828 early bookings are recommended

Christmas Party Bohemian Restaurant Narellan

Details from Anthony 0412577828 booking and pre payment is required.

Word from the President

Your Member Log In

If you have not received, or need help with *Your Member Log In* for our club web site details, could you please see Lindsay at the next meeting.

For all who were not able to come to last month's meeting, we had a ball. Record turn up of members, visitors from other branches, official visit from ABA Branch Development Officer Gavin Gibson, a lively discussions about our club web site, how to get a copy of the newsletter, A discourse by our Vice president on *Designing Your Own Honey Jar Label*, the presentation of ABA - Life Membership to two of our members. You can now read club meeting minutes in the member section of our web site <http://www.macbeekeepers.asn.au/>

Treasurer has resigned

After over 20 years Jean has resigned from the position as club treasurer. We would like to thank Jean and acknowledge the support and skills she has contributed to the Macarthur Beekeepers Association.

We are now looking for a member to work with the committee as an interim treasurer. We will offer full support. This assignment will be until March 2016.

Courses / Work Shops

Eucalypt Identification Work shop 29th and 30th June Monday Richmond
Eucalypt Expert Van Klaphake, Eucalypt Expert Sydney Branch NSWAA
sydneybranch@NSWAA.com.au Tanya -0414 501 198 Paul-0403 175 708

Backyard Beekeeping Course

8th August 2015 Saturday Macarthur Community College booking is essential call (02) 9826 6455 use search: *Backyard Beekeeping*
<http://www.macarthurcc.com.au/categories/list.html?SubcategoryID=10>

Beginning in Bees Course, 15th and 16th August 2015 Camden call (02) 4640 6333

Natural Beekeeping 26-27th September 2015 Sydney, Alexandria Park Community Centre
<http://www.milkwood.net/courses>

Beginning in Bees Course 20th Oct 2015 - 21st Oct 201 Total College call 1800 025 520

Beginning in Bees Course Sutherland, for date and time contact
club@beekeepersutherland.org.au

Beginning in Bees Course 1st November 2015 9:00 am MacDonald /St Albans call (02) 4568 2036
<http://www.permaculturesydneyinstitute.org>

*Would you like to add an interesting or important date to our newsletter, please contact Miskell 0437 913 831

Jacks Scales

The colour identification scales are sold out. We were not able to verify the original 6 members that ordered the scales in October 2014. Last meeting there were more than 7 members assuring us they ordered a set when we handed them out. We are sorry if you did order, but missed out. A thank you to Craig and Caroline for volunteering for this project.

The exchange rate from US\$ to A\$ varied to the extent that the club will carry the additional cost difference between the A\$50 charged to members and the actual cost of A\$60.70 (to be confirmed in July 2015 meeting) *subject to committee decision!*



Beekeeper's Association of NSW (Inc)

Just follow the link <http://www.beekeepers.asn.au/>. As a Club member you received it hot off the press in your email . Here are some of the topics covered: Wax moth and storing frames over winter Page 7, Flow Hive Portal Page 16, New Face Book of club branches Page 17, Cheap honey gates user feedback Page 16, 21st days in a bee's life....

Industry Topics July2015

Queen bees with tested hygienic behaviour

Hygienic behaviour is the primary mechanism of resistance to chalk brood and other brood diseases, such as American Foulbrood. Hygienic colonies are said to have more resistance to infestation by the parasitic mite *Varroa jacobsoni*. <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/>

The Australian Queen Bee Breeding Group AQBBG has young mated queen bees with tested hygienic behaviour for sale now. Queens are from \$500 to \$1000 each.
For orders or further information contact the Secretary: Trevor Weatherhead Phone: 07 5467 2135
Email: queenbee50@bigpond.com .

NATIONAL BEE SURVEY 2016

<http://honeybee.org.au/>

More than 12,000 registered beekeepers are tending to more than 520,000 hives across Australia that produce about \$90 million worth of honey and beeswax each year. About 65 per cent of Australian agricultural crops respond to honey bee pollination.

On the 16th June 2015 the Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce met with representatives of the honey industry.

A sample of commercial beekeepers, registered on state and territory lists, will be selected to participate in the survey with Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) to conduct interviews starting in late February 2016.

The survey results are expected to be available in July 2016 providing a thorough picture of changes to the national industry along with an up-to-date profile of the physical and financial characteristics of honey bee businesses.

Amateur beekeepers benefit from new resource



The Australian Beekeeping Guide provides basic information to assist beginner and sideline beekeepers.

It draws on the knowledge and experience of apiculture scientists, various state and territory apiary inspectors and apiary officers, and beekeepers who actually are keeping bees.

Buy it from Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Level 2, 15 National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 PO Box 4776 Kingston ACT 2604 Phone: 02 6271 4100 Fax: 02 6271 4199 Email: rirdc@rirdc.gov.au
Web: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au> , or as I did, download it for free <https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/14-098>

Warning sexually transmitted Bee disease

<http://www.rirdc.gov.au/news/2015/06/10/nosema-warning>

Nosema Apis is a highly infectious gut fungus . It can be found in seminal fluid and bee faeces.

It gives bees dysentery, reduces their lifespan, and can cause queens to stop laying eggs. This can ultimately lead to the collapse of the colony.

Five years of research has gone into the findings by the Centre for Integrative Bee Research (CIBER) at the University of Western Australia (UWA) .

Like the flu different strains develop and get active in the hive, especially if the hive is under stress. Beekeepers are being urged to monitor their hives closely after mating flights.

Word from the Vice

Well, we now know that winter has finally arrived. With this cold spell, I am adding extra weather protection to my 2 nucs which were a late split in April. Both seem to be doing well, but this cold snap has me being extra vigilant. Maybe I'm overdoing it, but if they survive and thrive, I will be happy.

At this time of year, I am busy planning my hive requirements for Spring, researching beekeeping online, maintaining boxes and frames and regularly watching the entrances of my hives for activity and nectar and pollen intake. I still have some shrubs Grevillia, Tibouchina, citrus trees and herbs flowering in the garden: Some spring bulbs are out too. Please let me know how your bees are doing and what you do over the winter months. I still consider myself a new beekeeper and need all the advice I can get.

I was chatting to an industrial beekeeper the other day and asked if we could go and visit him for a field trip. He as quite enthusiastic, and we will see what we can arrange for any members who are interested in how the big players do things.

Articles of interest

The New York Police department have an actual swarm collector as a member of their force. This person has to collect wasps and hornets as well as bees. The position is currently open as the last beekeeping expert has retired.

Cate Burton otherwise known as Queen B was explaining that one bee produces just 1gram of honey in its life. Cate is a professional candle maker and feels that creating beautiful beeswax candles "is a way of honouring them" so why beeswax candles? "They are non toxic and longer lasting, their flame is much more vibrant". Said Cate in an article read in the Sunday Telegraph (Sydney) 5/4/2015.

Oslo Builds World's First Bee Highway

Maddie Stone 29 June 2015

Bees are essential for food production, but around the world, populations have been declining for years. Norway's latest bid to back its fuzzy insectoid friends? The world's very first bee highway, naturally.

"We are constantly reshaping our environment to meet our needs, forgetting that other species also live in it," Agnes Lyche Melvaer, head of an Oslo-based environmental group supporting urban bees, [told The Guardian](#). "To correct that we need to return places to them to live and feed."

It won't look like any highway you're familiar with, but Norway hopes this collection of flower-laden rooftops will become a corridor that provides pollinating insects safe passage through the city, with 'rest stops' along the way that offer food and shelter. The initiative — a cooperation between state bodies, companies, and private homeowners — is being built piecemeal, with new highway partners

simply jumping in and adding their rooftops to the mix. The website polli.no contains a growing, interactive map of the entire route:

And finally...

Looking for more sources of medicinal Australian *Leptospermum* (jelly bush) honey

The University of Technology Sydney is leading an exciting new research project looking for more sources of medicinal Australian *Leptospermum* honey (aka jelly bush, or Australian manuka).

We are asking beekeepers with access to *Leptospermum* (jelly bush/manuka) honeys from anywhere in the country to provide samples to include in this research project. *Leptospermum* honeys are usually dark, relatively strongly flavoured, and often hard to extract because they tend to “gel” in the comb. We will test these honeys for antimicrobial activity and investigate the relationship between the activity and the plant source.

The project will be running over the next few years (until 2018), to allow us to collect and test as many Australian *Leptospermum* honeys as possible.

Why are we doing this?

Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) honey from NZ is world famous, and it is sold at a much higher price than other honeys. However, although Australia is home to the largest diversity of *Leptospermum* plants in the world (we have more than 80 species compared to NZ's two!), most of our honeys do not enjoy the high prices of their NZ equivalents.

We already know that a handful of Australian *Leptospermum* honeys have similar levels of antibacterial activity to NZ manuka, but most of the other 80 plus Australian varieties have not been tested. We want to find more sources of active honey, which will help the Australian beekeeping industry by increasing the amount and value of medicinal Australian honey being produced.

If you have access to *Leptospermum* honeys from anywhere in Australia, and would like to include them in our survey, please get in touch with us. We'll be asking for 200 - 500 g, and some information about the location it was collected, as well as samples from the plants the bees visited to produce the honey. We will provide an information sheet with instructions, an address to send your samples to and other important information for our study.

We will keep the results confidential, but we will provide anyone supplying samples with a report on the results from the testing of their honeys.

The Research Team involved in this project includes Dr Shona Blair, Dr Peter Brooks and Professor Dee Carter, as well as the Principle Investigator, Professor Liz Harry and the Project Coordinator, Nural Cokcetin. The project is being funded by RIRDC, with support from Capilano and Comvita.

For more information on providing samples, please contact:

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