

Macarthur Beekeepers Newsletter

May 2015



Diary Dates:

- 10th May Mother's Day and Live Smart Festival 10am to 3pm at the centre for sustainable living
- 20th May Meeting night 7:30pm to 9:30 Beekeeping Hygiene and Hive Records
- 23th May Field Day 9:00 to 11:00am at the Apiary
- 30th May Workshop Box and Frame making 9:00am to 12:00pm @Ralph's
- 6th June Workshop Building discussion Forum @Centre for Sustainable living Kitchen 9:00am to 12:00pm
- 18th June Meeting night 7:30pm to 9:30 Labelling Design and regulations
- 20st June Field Day 9:00 to 11:00am TBA

President's report:

Anna Roma was cancelled on the morning of the event due to the weather. We tried to reach everyone involved in time. I hope it did not inconvenience too many members. The official note from Botanical Gardens arrived a day after by email.

New officers We are happy to announce that Lindsay has accepted the appointment as member Liaison officer. He will meet and greet new visitors and make every one welcome during club events and meetings. Lindsay will be an additional point of contact for anything you may like to discuss or need from the club.

Open Positions We are still looking for members that would like to assist with our apiary work. If you would like know a little more about this position please contact Anthony on 0412577828

The position as publicity officer is also still vacant. Would you like to know a little more about this role? We can discuss it during our May meeting.

Swarm list If you would like to be listed with your contact details on our web page swarm list ? Please see me at the end of the meeting. You must have current DPI Registration and Insurance

Invitation to participate in a little research. We are putting together some research on testing bee hive performance and pest resistance using open bottom hives. If you would like to participate, please see me after the meeting .

On the 6th of June everyone is invited to the 1st discussion forum on our biggest ever project:

The Macarthur Beekeepers Educational Facility. This will be our Club home, a community education facility and a showcase of Beekeeping in our area. We will discuss and get ideas together for the proposals that we must provide to our Stakeholders Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living, Mount Annan Botanical Gardens and the three local Macarthur Councils.

From the Vice:

Hi all, wow it has been a busy start for the new committee. Thanks to all of you for helping us transition into our new roles.

Sunday 3rd May at 8:30am saw Ralph, Caroline and I attending the ABA AGM. All members of the ABA, are welcome to the meeting and are able to have their say.

The meeting included the Col. Pulling competition, which is open to all groups. It consists of honey varieties, wax, quiz and Club report. Maybe we can enter next year.

A new president was elected, Lamorna Osbourne from the Illawarra Branch. Dave Wilson will stay on as the secretary; Doug the resigning president will now focus on giving the ABA website an overhaul.

The annual grants were announced, with each club being given \$1000. A list of suggested items for it is to be used for will be sent to each club.

The best news of the day was that Alistair and Anthony were granted Life Membership to the ABA for their services to the Macarthur Branch. New rules will apply from this year, when Life members will only be granted for services to The ABA. We can though still have life members within our clubs.

Recipe Honey Caramels:

Ingredients

- 1 cup - butter
- 2 cups - honey
- 2 cups - whipping cream
- 1 cup - brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon - vanilla extract
- finely chopped almonds, optional

Directions

Line bottom and sides of 9-inch square pan with plastic wrap; set aside. Melt butter in medium-sized heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Add honey, cream and brown sugar; mix well. Cook over medium-high heat until mixture comes to boil, stirring frequently. Reduce heat to medium and continue boiling, stirring frequently, until candy thermometer registers 250°F to 255°F, about 45 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla; pour into prepared pan. Let cool completely in refrigerator before cutting into individual caramels with very sharp knife. Roll in chopped nuts or coconut, if desired, and wrap each individually in clear plastic wrap. Store, tightly wrapped in refrigerator up to 1 month. Caramels will be soft at room temperature and firm if kept chilled. Bring some to the meeting.

This month's plant:-

Look for *Acacia falcata*. common name Sickie Wattle

Large shrub or small tree, to 5 metres. Droopy leaves, cream flowers April - July.



Editors Comment:

Hi All,

Since I'm very new to beekeeping, and most of my knowledge is theoretical, I would love to receive few articles from the other members to put in the newsletter, it will be your legacy for years to come, and at the end of the year the best contributions will be rewarded.

Macarthur Beekeepers Committee

Title	Name	Phone	email
President	Ralph Skerra	04 50 501 330	president@macbeekeepers.asn.au
Vice President	Miskell Hampton	04 37 913 831	vicepresident@macbeekeepers.asn.au
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Treasurer	Jean Haavasalu		treasurer@Macbeekeepers.asn.au
Editor	Maher Steitieh	04 19 993 806	maher@steitieh.com

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If you have any beekeeping Equipment Tools or supplies, email Maher Steitieh on m@steitieh.com and I will publish it in the news letter