



## ***Dates and events***

- Club meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday October
- Total : 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2015 Saturday , please see Anthony (0412577828)
- One day introduction course into Back Yard Beekeeping: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 Saturday at Macarthur Community College 02 9826 6455 book now
- Bees and People: 2nd of November 6:00pm at Douglas Park Community Center
- Field day (weather permitting): 7<sup>th</sup> of November Saturday
- Xmas Dinner : 18<sup>th</sup> November Wednesday, book now, please see Anthony

## ***Seasonal Activities***



Checking & managing hives  
for swarming and harvesting honey

## ***Word from the president (By Ralph Skerra)***

Did you know we print the Macarthur Beekeepers News on paper? If you know of a member that would like the news letter printed out could you please let Lindsay know before the next meeting (0401181161)

## ***Word from the Apiary officer (By Anthony Martin)***

24<sup>th</sup> of October 2015 Final reminder for our field trip to Tocal on the

- Please let me (0412577828) know your plans for Tocal
- Last chance to book a seat on the bus is now!
- The cost is \$45 per person
- Some of the demonstrations are out doors. It may be best to bring a hat & your vial

18<sup>th</sup> November Xmas Dinner please book now

## ***Pictures that say it all***

Gary Colligan sent us pictures from his spring hive inspection. "I opened my hive up 2 weeks ago and the numbers were huge, I found no sign of hive beetle and no Varroa mite on the bees, and I checked the brood area and it appeared the queen had plenty of room to move and lay more eggs. Four days later .. this .. happened at my next door neighbor ...I believe they were from my hive, so now I .... have two" A happy outcome indeed.



Do you have a picture that tells a story? Why not share it in the Macarthur Beekeepers News Letter

## ***Three days at Sustainable Living (By Alistair Kilfeather)***

There was a trembling at the news  
For word had got around  
Over a thousand were on the way  
From all over Sydney town  
They were coming to play and frolic  
In our green and pleasant land.

Beneath a rain laden sky  
The buses blue and white  
Crawled around the lights and stopped.

The dog handlers leashed the kelpies

As they would be the first to greet the crowds  
As the children pressed their way through the  
gates.

The first wave poured from the coach  
Little fairies dressed in pink and blue  
With down jackets which mummy said  
Might be needed as it gets cold and wet out there.  
Ain't mummy's always right.

Onward they marched in orderly fashion  
The excitement just contained.

A sudden burst of shouting there and then  
The carers were up to the challenge  
Only stopping when instructed  
To make camp with their haversacks  
Of red, white and blue.

Some sucking thumbs others clutching teddies  
Or long legged dollies.  
Boys sporting footie caps and eyeing off  
The games they fancied.  
The sumo wrestling suits, cricket,  
Plastic bubbles which rolled about  
With you inside.  
So no one could hear you scream.,  
Jumping castles and many many more things to do.

The dog handlers were kept busy showing off their

dogs tricks  
The children just loved them.  
More busses arrived, big ones, small ones  
For the next two days.  
And yet, the park could have held one thousand  
more.  
How could we compete?

Miskell had got six hundred show bags from  
Capilano. So we had a quick guessing competition  
and of course show bags for all the children. We  
had one table set aside for colouring in ....

All said and done, the days were good. Many  
thanks to Ralph, Miskel, Caroline and Anthony for  
sorting out the tent and tables and James Chapman  
for helping out on the second day.

### ***The 2015 Twilight Markets (By Alistair Kilfeather)***



The markets started off well, bands playing, people everywhere, then a cool wind put an edge to the evening, and by 7 o'clock a slight drizzle of rain dampened things down.

The club done well with honey sales and we moved some more show bags. But to be honest we were glad when Helen of Sustainable Living management called it a night.

Anthony and myself packed up and the only thing I got was a cold. Thanks Ralph for bringing the gear.

Hope the next market will have beautiful weather to make it the roaring success I am sure it would have been this time given some good weather.

## ***A Word from the Secretary About Twilight Markets at Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living (MCSL) (By Caroline Clatworthy)***

On two very windy days (23rd and 24th September) the bee tent was erected at MCSL and we set about the task of educating the next generation of school children on the subject of bees. MCSL hosts various activities for vocational care children all over Sydney. We were fortunate enough to have kilos of sample bags obtained by Miskell to hand out to the children with the purpose of going through some of the educational material found in the bag. However we were limited to asking the kids a few questions and rewarding them with a stamp as it would have been nigh on impossible for them to hold onto anything in the wind!

Volunteers over the two days included Alistair, Miskell, Ralph, Jim and myself.

If the event is to be repeated, more volunteers will be needed.

Thank you to all the people involved and I mustn't forget Helen who works so hard to give city kids a look at the country.



### ***What Asian Bees prefer?***



A very interesting project on the invading Asian *Apis cerana* Java (Asian Bee) has been published reporting fascinating findings on this pest bee's preference of colour, shape and sent and viscosity of food taking in.

The research to designing an effective baiting station highlighted differences and similarities in sugar concentration and sugar type between *Apis cerana* Java and *Apis mellifera* (honey bee) as well as unexpected preferences both in term of number and speed to solution viscosity.

*Apis cerana* Java in Cairns showed strong preferences to the yellow colour as well than heptagonal shapes (7 sides), in terms of landing propensity. This clear preference may be of interest for an optimum design of baiting station.

*Apis cerana* is a known pollinator of coconuts palms, and due to the fact that coconut palms are distributed throughout the Cairns region and in flower most of the year, it is likely that foragers have associated its smell/taste with reward. Coconuts essence both induced the collection of the largest amount of sucrose solution compared to the other scents tested. It also showed a marked preference in term of landing in the absence of reward.

It was found that *Cymbidium floribundum* orchid compounds increase the landing preference of foraging Asian Bees. The R-3 Hydroxy Octanoic Acid in itself or in conjunction with the CSIRO 6 compound lure, or the whole orchid, have also shown to facilitate swarm capture and thus could be used as a means of control by capturing swarms, which in turn may limit the spread of the species.

For best effect the olfactory attractant should not be mixed with the provided sucrose solution but delivered separately. Coconut essence could be added to the sucrose solution to facilitate rapid and specific recruitment.

The difference in viscosity preference of *Apis cerana* (Asian Bee) and *Apis mellifera* (honey bee) could be used to good effect but requires further research because the viscosity preference of *Tetragonula sp.* ( stingless bees ) is too similar to the one of the Asian bee. Possible exclusion of *stingless bee* species could be achieved by moving the baiting stations every week due to their slow recruitment. Baiting stations should also be washed to remove the sticky residues deposited on the feeders by the Asian bee.

All up this report shows science research is interesting for the humble back yard beekeeper.

For more information contact Dr David Guez Email: david.guez@newcastle.edu.au  
report is available as a free PDF file from the RIRDC Web site (Pub. No: 15/070  
ISBN: 978-1-74254-816-6The) or ask Lindsay to provide you with a hard copy.

### **Macarthur Beekeepers Constitution**

The up dated constitution is based on the valid *Associations Incorporated Act 2009* and its *Associations Incorporated Regulation (2010) Schedule 1 Model Constitution* (see <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au> ) of the *NSW Government Department of Fair Trading*

For a head start, you can find *Model Constitution* here:

[http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Cooperatives\\_and\\_associations/Incorporating\\_an\\_association/About\\_the\\_constitution/Model\\_constitution.page](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Cooperatives_and_associations/Incorporating_an_association/About_the_constitution/Model_constitution.page)

### **Tasmanian bees are catching up with international research**

A honey bee with a sensor glued to its back. Scientists at the CSIRO and the University of Tasmania have been tracking the behavior of bees. © **CSIRO**



A sensor is placed onto the back of a ... bee. Data gathered by the Global Initiative for Honey bee Health (GIHH) will provide valuable information to scientists, beekeepers, primary producers, industry groups and governments to achieve

impacts around improved bio-security measures, crop pollination, bee health, food production and better strategies on sustainable farming practices, food security and impacts on ecosystems in general.

The health of honey bees is under increasing pressure on a global scale. The impact *in Aus* of losing the free pollination services provided by feral honey bees will be farmers paying beekeepers to bring bees in to pollinate their crops, resulting in price hikes in everything from cucumbers and oranges, to cashews and onions.



Professor Paulo de Souza, of the CSIRO, said air pollution, water contamination, agricultural chemicals, extreme weather events, pests, pathogens, and parasites like the Varroamite, as well as diet of the bees, genetically modified pollen, and mismanagement of hives were all affecting the health of bees around the world. © CSIRO August 2015 <http://www.csiro.au/en/Research>

Radiofrequency-Identification 2009 Germany  
University Würzburg ht

### **Backyard beekeeping Australia's latest urban craze**

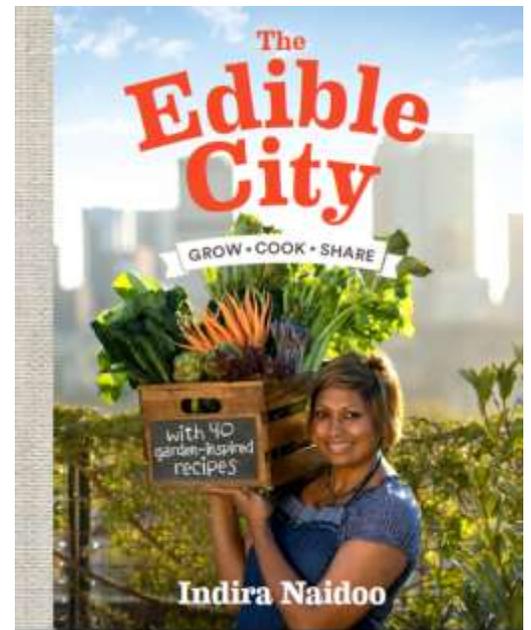


#### **BACKYARD HONEY**

It's estimated that as much as 80 per cent of the wild bee population in the United States and Spain could have already perished.

Indira Naidoo, author of *The Edible City* worries that 65 per cent of agricultural production in Australia depends on pollination by European honeybees. And 35 Australian industries like the cherry, almond, apple and pear industries are almost totally reliant on bees. Her tips are:

- Bees require a dry, sunny position, preferably with a north east aspect.
- Windy locations are not suitable, as the colony will have difficulty maintaining the temperature and humidity in the hive.
- Bees are flying in and out of their hives constantly, so flight paths are also important to consider.
- It is necessary to place bees away from human traffic areas such as footpaths, back doors and vegetable gardens.
- The hive entrance should not face an outside light as this will attract bees and confuse them when it is on.
- The bees will also require flowers for pollen and nectar within about 100 meters of the nest, but will fly as far away as 10 km to collect them.
- Ensure your hive meets all state regulations. In New South Wales, every beehive must be registered with NSW Department of Primary Industry so officers can monitor hive health and the spread of diseases.
- Beginners are advised to undergo ...a course ... before starting beekeeping.



**Melbourne City Rooftop Honey** is an urban beekeeping organization. It was formed when founders Vanessa Kwiatkowski and Mat Lumalasi saw the success of urban beekeeping internationally in cities such as Paris, London, Toronto, San Francisco and New York City. It's their hope that beehives will become as common as the humble chook pen and backyard veggie patch. "Bees are the new chickens....The more the merrier we say."

Depending on their management, location and frequency of harvesting, *Melbourne* backyard hives are said to produce between 10 and 80 kilograms of honey each year. Melbourne Aug 2015

## **Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) canola crops warning**



Some canola crops growers are looking to spray flowering canola with dimethoate to control the pests. The dimethoate label instructions are clear about the impact the chemical has on bees: 'Dangerous to bees. DO NOT spray any plants in flower while bees are foraging'.

As pollination by honeybees can increase yields in canola. It is to the growers benefit to make sure that honeybees are not killed.

*BeeConnected* is a new phone app, and an excellent way to connect beekeepers with growers and spray applicators to communicate and make sure honeybees are not inadvertently killed.

This app allows growers and beekeepers to register and receive updates about activities near them which may impact their operations.

For example, a grower can be alerted that beehives are being set up in their area, and a beekeeper can find out through the app that a grower is spraying near their hives – we encourage all to utilise this service. For more information : Both AHBIC Chairman Ian Zadow (0429 433 125) and Executive Director Trevor Weatherhead (07 5467 2265) are available for interview. <http://honeybee.org.au>

## **Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) ask you to provide honey samples for testing *Leptospermum***

If you have access to *Leptospermum* honeys and would like to include them in The University of Technology Sydney survey, please get in touch. They'll be asking for 200 -500 g samples and some information about the location it was collected, as well as samples from the plants the bees visited to produce the honey.

Why is it of interest to you/us?

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 yet enjoy the high prices of their NZ equivalents.



The University of Technology Sydney will provide a sample information sheet containing clear instructions, an address to send your samples to and other important information for our study.

Your sample results stay confidential, but anyone supplying samples gets a report on the results from the testing of their honeys.

If you would like to provide samples, please contact:

Nural Cokcetin | Project Coordinator | 0405 284 718 | [Nural.Cokcetin@uts.edu.au](mailto:Nural.Cokcetin@uts.edu.au)

Prof Liz Harry | Principle Investigator | 0404 643 181 or 02 9810 6461 | [Elizabeth.Harry@uts.edu.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Harry@uts.edu.au)

For fieldwork to identify *Leptospermum* species and collect nectar samples Simon Williams, PhD student 0459 336 779 under Dr Peter Brooks at the University of Sunshine Coast, is planning the fieldwork phase of the project.

[Simon.Williams@research.usc.edu.au](mailto:Simon.Williams@research.usc.edu.au) is planning to visit as many sites in NSW as possible during November 2015 onward. He could meet with you to aid in identification of *Leptospermum* species and collecting nectar samples from trees to determine the potential non peroxide activity (NPA) of the various *Leptospermum* species. <http://honeybee.org.au>

### ***New APP for plant recognition***

The ABC Rural has a report on a researcher at Edith Cowan University developing an App for Plant Recognition using a single leaf of the plant. So far he has 30 plants in the database. Maybe something for the future for beekeepers. For more information see <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015>

### ***Bees get busy as spring comes to Sydney***



Award-winning amateur apiarist Norm Webb who has been keeping bees for 30 years and who won blue ribbons for the 10th consecutive year at the Sydney Royal Easter Show shares some of his experience with the ABC

- Spring is the most stressful time for bees because they are building up in numbers
- The worst diseases are brood diseases because they'll dwindle the hive numbers and you'll lose your field force
- This Sydney honey is defined as OTBK honey. Only The Bees Know where the pollen came from.
- The best places in Sydney to keep bees

are inland, in western Sydney, and the north-west and south-west.

- The more humid the climate the worse it is for bees. Bees never die of cold, but they can't tolerate dampness. Condensation inside the hive is something bees don't like
- Bees profit from a diversity of flora. That's the benefit of having them in residential areas.
- We as hobbyists are drought-proof because people are always out watering their gardens, so there are always things for the bees to potter around on. <http://www.abc.net.au/news>

## Marketing tips



As it is with all good advice .... You decide. Some of the following suggestions are from Lauren Arcuri a *Small Farms* expert on marketing on farm markets and fairs.

- **Choose Your Products Wisely**

Offer something special, a different variety or flavour; make sure you can keep the supply up

- **Information**

Clearly labeled prices are a good starting point. But go above and beyond.

Make signs that answer your customers' common questions. Is it organic, free-range? Name the quality, then describe what it means to the



customer. Is it specialty, heirloom, or rare? How do you use it? What is it good with? Give Your Customers Ideas and Recipes

- **Offer Free Samples** Customers are much more likely to come over to your stand if you have some plates of attractively-presented samples for them to munch on. Plus, it gives them a chance to try something they might not have before
- **Bring Your Best to Market** It should go without saying, but it's always good to have a reminder. You want the products you bring to the farmers market to be the best of what you have available
- **Pile It High, Make It Look Good** There's a bit of an art to arranging your wares and booth at the market. Overflowing, abundant quantity, colorful decoration will entice customers to your booth. Think about how you can make your booth inviting and friendly. Smile when you're behind the table. Be available to customers -- don't have your nose in a book or stare down at your boots
- **Be Business Smart** To make money from honey, you need to keep careful records of what it costs you to produce your honey. Make sure you're covering costs and making a profit.
- **Keep records** of what sells and for what price, and use creative pricing strategies to sell more.
- **Charge what it's worth** - undercharging doesn't help you, remember you need your fellow beekeepers. Instead have a variety of products or sizes at different price points, from less expensive to higher-end and in between. Your price may vary from week to week or throughout the season for the same item -- that's okay, just be sure your signs are consistent and reflect the changes.



Now you're ready – give it a go! Happy selling!

