



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW PARRAMATTA

**JUNE 2018
NEWSLETTER**

Edited by Dave Wilson

For information on the ABA including joining (re-joining) go to: www.beekeepers.asn.au

To go to the Parramatta Branch Page, click on <https://goo.gl/i4q87x>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/parramatabeekeepers/>

Next meeting of the Parramatta Branch

On 13-Jun-18 there will be a presentation by Bruce White on "The Role of the ABA in Protecting Honey Production in Australia". Bruce's expertise is well known so this is a presentation not to be missed.

The inaugural Parramatta Bee Club pizza and movie night on 18-Jul-18

The gala event will be held on 18-Jul-18 starting at 6 pm at our very own movie theatre at James Ruse High School.

*There is no meeting on the second Wednesday in July
The Pizza night is on the Third Wednesday. Got that?*

At only \$10 per ticket this event is designed as a thank you to the members and their families for the efforts they make to protect and support honey bees. Local honey bees have selected the movie (about them) but have not released the name so you will be surprised and amazed at their abilities. The movie is a commercial film that has won many awards.

A pizza meal, soft drinks, tea, coffee and a movie for \$10! There must be a catch I hear you say! Well the club is subsidising this event as a way of thanking members for their contributions. BYO alcohol.

You and your family are welcome to attend but ...

But you must pay for your tickets at the June meeting!!!

Pay Sandy Harrison or Peta Appleroth at the meeting on 13-Jun-18. No money in June meeting means disappointment in July.

For Sale

Keith Steele has a working hive for sale. It is an 8-frame wooden two box hive with queen excluder. It has placid queen (from Greg Mulder Queens) and comes complete with M-lock and has two supers with frames ready to add in spring time. It has small hive beetle traps in place and has been a prolific honey producer this summer.

Keith is an experienced beekeeper and is a long-time member of the club. He is reducing his fleet of hives. Only \$300 - first in – best dressed. Phone Keith on 0497 340 477

The Library

At our meeting, the library will be open from 6.45pm to 7.15pm in the old classroom. There is an abundance of books available. Even the most experienced beekeepers can learn more.

Trapped by the gate?

We will use the combination padlock on the main gate and there will be a number to call to get the code to open the gate after 7.30pm when the gate is locked. June's Meeting will be our first run of this new system. The lock code will be changed periodically.



St Ives Show 2018 Newsletter Report

The weekend of the 19th and 20th May saw our participation in the annual St Ives Show. Friday the 18th was set up with thanks to the club members who helped set up the stand, accept entries and organise the judging.

The show appeared to be a little smaller this year with no show girl or stand prize. Last year we won third place for our stand last



year.

Apiary products were in abundance with many already collected at the club and many more arriving on Friday and Saturday. Total number of entrants was 32 with the following numbers in each class. A big thankyou to Norm Webb for being our volunteer judge.

1. Liquid Honey, Very Light – 4 entries	9. Beeswax - Candles –Moulded - 2 entries
2. Liquid Honey, Light - 14 entries	10. Beeswax – Dipped Candles – 1 entry
3. Liquid Honey, Medium - 21 entries	11. Beeswax – Moulds – 4 entries
4. Liquid Honey, Dark - 9 entries	12. Pollen – Cleaned and dried – 0 entries
5. Natural Granulation Honey (Candied) – 3 entries	13. Comb Honey ideal – 3 entries
6. Creamed honey - 4 entries	14. Frame Comb Honey full depth – 2 entries
7. Liquid Chunk Honey – with comb 3 entries	15. Sweet Mead – 8 entries
8 Beeswax - Natural Colour, 1 Block not less than 500g. 11 entries	16. Dry Mead - 8 entries
	17. Cut Comb - 7 entries



Each Category was awarded first, and third.
Candle making remained popular the kids making approximately 125 candles that were sent home as a reminder of bees and beekeeping their visit to the St Ives Show.



second
with
and

The show would not work without the hard work of the 23 volunteers that gave of their time to manage the stand over the set up and two days of the show. A big Thank You to you all.

Best in show overall

Linda and Rob Kay

Parramatta

Champion Exhibitor

Doyle Egelhoff

Equal Second

Lod Porretta

Equal Second

Victor Bilokin

Third

Peter Clarke

A change in Editor in July

Bill Dick (wdi57088@bigpond.net.au) will be the editor of the July newsletter. Articles for inclusion to him by email please.

The Col Pulling Competition 2018

This is a competition between ABA clubs. This year it was held in conjunction with the ABA Conference at The Entrance and Parramatta entered despite the club being split between the ABA Conference and the St Ives Show.

The Col Pulling Competition has four components.

1. The club report – a summary of events at the club over the year. Prepared by Sandy Harrison. Our score 95/100 (top score)
2. Apiary products – light, medium and dark honey, creamed honey, wax block and a frame of capped honey. Prepared by Norm Webb. Our score 238/250 (third)

Honey cake was prepared by Sandy Harrison. Our score 48/50 (fifth)



3. Photos prepared by Sandy Harrison – our score 32/40 (second)
4. Quiz answered by the Parramatta people at the conference – score 9/20 (second top)

Overall Parramatta was first on 81.9% narrowly beating Central Coast 79.1%.

The trophy will show Parramatta as the winner but the result was largely the work Sandy Harrison (report, photos and cake) and Norm

Webb (apiary products). Congratulations to Sandy and Norm for their efforts.

At the last meeting



Mark Page (DPI Bee Biosecurity Officer), was introduced by Rob Bowman (DPI Senior Compliance Officer).

Rod began the presentation with an introduction to the *Biosecurity Act 2015 as a Shared Responsibility*. Rod stated the Key Objectives of this Act were **Prevention, Elimination and Minimisation of Biosecurity Risks**

The Act links key elements of Biosecurity in NSW as a Shared Responsibility through the General Biosecurity Duty and provides a registration process for the Apiary Industry in NSW

The act intends to

- Prevents the introduction into NSW of biosecurity risks that threaten to harm the viability of the Apiary Industry
- Minimises the impacts of endemic biosecurity risks and risks to public presented by bees

Rod reminded the Members present that Bee Keepers must be Registered with the DPI and that the Regulations cover:

- Frame hives, Identification of hives and record keeping including the movement & disposal of bee hives. In line with other areas of the community, records must be kept for a period of five years after ceasing to be a bee keeper.
- Being a registered beekeeper allows you to play a role in containing a possible pest or disease outbreak as you are contactable. DPI values you as a monitor to assist with outbreaks or early detection of an exotic-pest or disease as part of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program
- Bee keeping assists Agriculture in NSW to the value of \$5 – 6 Billion dollars annually.
- There are over 6,800 bee keepers in NSW and greater than 281,000 registered hives.

- NSW accounts for 40 – 45% of the Australian Honey Industry.
- The gross value of Honey and Bee related products contributes \$95 Million to Australian revenue annually. NSW contributes \$35 million annually.

Mark Page continued the presentation offering practical advice related to detecting disease and pests within a hive. Emphasis was placed upon brushing or shaking bees from a frame to allow the beekeeper to check carefully for brood cells affected by a disease.

Emphasis was placed upon Managing the Risks; whether that is equipment interchange, poor or no record keeping, using second hand equipment, not irradiating infected equipment or second hand equipment, allowing robbing, feeding honey or pollen or allowing bees to drift into other hives.

Biosecurity

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Bees in my Garden.....Bob Mansfield.

Since 2001 I have worked on my home "Secret Garden" and, like all gardeners, was very much aware of the plant pollination advantage afforded by visiting bees. I had no intention of introducing a European Bee Hive to help, but I did entertain the thought of getting a Native Bee Hive.... of stingless bees, from time to time. The expense involved did bother me somewhat though!

In the Spring of 2016, a swarm of European bees settled on a branch of a tree in the garden.



Their arrival was heralded with what I thought was a turbine, of some size, starting up several houses away! I thus witnessed the event when finally I focused on the thousands of bees responsible for the noise!

What to do? I had no idea! Minimal knowledge suggested that I should be able to capture it but, by the time I'd consulted "Mr.Google", the swarm had moved on.

In the course of that consultation my interest was aroused and I then spent a lot of time researching the subject. In particular I looked at various sites related to what swarming was all about and how to build and locate a suitable lure box.

My main source of information to help me decide on a suitable box is to be found here... www.horizontalhive.com ...under "Swarms".

A decided advantage here in such an endeavour is that my "Secret Garden" backs onto the Cooks River Reserve and all the Council planted, native shrubs and tree therein. The reserve extends westward to two Golf Courses and , further on, to Rookwood Cemetery. To the East the river courses through various reserves to the sea.

So, a box was constructed and located up in the Mulberry tree. Some Lemongrass Oil was introduced as an attractant and the wait began! Barely two weeks later scouts were noticed and the swarm arrived whilst I was at work. A pleasant surprise when I returned home that day!

Normally, the sequence of ensuing events would produce a viable nucleus colony. Suffice it to say that my experience was far from ideal. The bees were noticed to be unwell and the lot eventually succumbed because.... the scrounged ply, I used to make the box from, had been treated with an anti-termite agent! It took several days for the penny to drop!

NEXT: A new box was constructed from ply bought from the hardware shop!

I had to wait until this recent season (October 2017) to attract another swarm and again had the fantastic experience of witnessing its arrival (captured on video this time) and the "marching in" of thousands of bees.

This time things appeared to be going well until I appreciated that the colony was queenless! That, and

subsequent developments, were negotiated however and I now have my first viable colony /hive.

A sweet honour

The Royal Agricultural Society's Murray Wilton and Robert Ryan with Bruce White (centre).

Legendary status for busy bee and honey pundit

AFTER decades dedicated to bee and honey sector, Bruce White was honoured as a "show legend" in the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW bestowed him with the Castle Hill man with honour on Thursday.

Mr White spent 41 years providing services to the beekeeping industry as an apilary officer with the NSW Primary Industries Department. He has worked with the show since 1966.

He was surprised to be named a show legend despite his loyal service to the show.

"I just do this because I am keen to help agriculture and particularly the RAS and the bee industry," Mr White said.

RAS president Robert Ryan said Mr White's passion with the honey competition encapsulated the spirit of the show. "He is always happy to speak to exhibitors and showgoers and answer any questions about improving their beekeeping and goes above and beyond to help promote the sector," he said. "He simply loves his industry and it shows."

Mr White is a familiar face at the show's "Bee Zeebo" exhibit in the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome at the show.

Sounds good! Attract one's own colony... at home! It gets better! The box was replaced in the tree and, on the 3rd. of March this year (2018), another swarm was noticed to have taken up residence!

Way to go!

Of course, there is the possibility that one may capture one's own swarm.....worth thinking about maybe?

Newspaper article about Bruce White

Hills Shire Times - Tuesday April 3, 2018 thanks to Bernie and Bill.

This is particularly appropriate since Bruce will be our guest speaker at the June Meeting.

Calendar

13 June 2018	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting <i>Feature: The Role of the ABA in Protecting Honey Production in Australia with Bruce White</i>
11 July 2018	No Meeting
18 July 2018	6 pm Pizza and Movie night
8 August 2018	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting - <i>Feature: Emily Remnant on immunising honey bees</i>
12 September 2018	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting - <i>Feature: TBA</i>
10 October 2018	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting - <i>Feature: TBA</i>
14 November 2018	7.30 pm Parramatta Monthly Meeting - <i>Feature: TBA</i>
12 December 2018	No Meeting <i>Event: Christmas Member (and Family) BBQ</i>