



BUZZWORD

Beekeepers' Society of South Australia Inc.
(Formerly Amateur Beekeepers' Soc. of SA Inc)

www.bees.org.au

NEWSLETTER

Edition 101

April 2019



Correspondence to:

The Secretary
 Beekeepers' Society of SA Inc
 PO Box 283
 Fullarton SA 5063

email: office@bees.org.au

Many thanks to those who provide articles for the newsletter.

Contributors:

Paul Frost
 Sue Speck
 Rossi von der Borsch
 Eugene McEwen
 Mark Horwood
 Bob Beer

BUZZWORD

(The Beekeepers' Society Newsletter)
 Articles are always being sought by the editor for inclusion in the newsletter. Please feel free to email or write in and provide any interesting experiences about the management of your hives.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the newsletter please contact:
 Barbara Horwood, editor, on 8296 8478
 email: horwoodmb@internode.on.net

WEBSITE:

www.bees.org.au



See us on **FACEBOOK**. Go to www.facebook.com/beekeeperssa/

You can view a host of interesting material, photos and comments - you can "like" us and leave a comment of your own. Thanks go to Richard Martin who co-ordinates the website.

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2018-2019 Office Bearers:

President:	Susan Lonie
Vice-President	Grant Gotley
Treasurer:	Adrian Egel

Secretary: Trisha Blanks	0437 713 790
office@bees.org.au	

Minute Secretary:	Sandra Ullrich
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Committee Members:

Len Turner
 Joel Hayes

Website Co-ordinator:	Richard Martin
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Librarian:

Sue Speck

Equipment Officers:

Eugene McEwen	(North)	8261 0514
Susan Lonie	(South)	0417 811 067

Committee Meetings (from March 2019)

third Monday of each month, 7 pm at Kensington.

General Meetings (from March 2019)

General meetings will be held at Burnside Civic Centre Hall, 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore on the **first MONDAY** of each month at 7.30 pm

Beeginners Meetings commence at 7 pm.

Young Beekeepers meet every second month; next meeting in May, at 7 pm.

Supper is available (gold coin donation). Please refer to this BSSA Newsletter (Buzzword) or website for details of speakers/activities for each of the meetings.

BSSA Apiary Site

The BSSA hives are located at:
Selgar Avenue, Clovelly Park - about 200 metres west off South Road and behind the Tonsley Hotel.

A BSSA hive is situated at the SA Museum on North Terrace for viewing by the public.

Department of Primary Industries (PIRSA)
Project Coordinator, Apiaries:
Michael Stedman- 8429 0872
Bee Biosecurity Officer:
Teagan Alexander – 8429 2170
https://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/bees

Subscriptions

The financial year for the society is from 1 July to 30 June. Subscriptions are due as from 1st July each year. The membership fee for the financial year commencing 1 July 2019 is \$65.

Membership application and renewal forms can be downloaded from the link found on the Beekeepers' Society of SA website (www.bees.org.au)

Queen colours

Last digit of the year
0 or 5: Blue
1 or 6: white
2 or 7: yellow
3 or 8: red
4 or 9: green

Field Days

Practical aspects of beekeeping will be demonstrated on a number of occasions during the year. Please refer to Buzzword Field Days page for details. *The field days are a must for all new beekeepers.*

REMINDER

CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE

The BSSA General Meetings have moved to the Burnside Civic Centre Hall, located at 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore 5065 (on the corner of Greenhill and Portrush Roads). The meeting night are the **first Monday** of the month, instead of Tuesday. This is due to the availability of the new premises. Please contact a committee member at office@bees.org.au if you have any questions or comments.



**BEE-GINNERS' MEETINGS
START AT 7 PM
(BEFORE THE START OF MONTHLY
GENERAL MEETING)**

Meetings commence at 7 pm for beginner beekeepers to participate in half an hour of question-and-information exchange prior to the start of the main monthly general meeting

Young Beekeepers meet every second month; next meeting in May, at 7 pm.



FIELD DAYS

(Practical Beekeeping)

HIVE INSPECTIONS

PROGRAM OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE BSSA HIVES

Honey extraction as required

The BSSA hives are located at:

Selgar Avenue, Clovelly Park - about 200 metres west off South Road and behind the Tonsley Hotel

All participants must have at least long sleeves and trousers and a head veil. Attendance is limited to 15 persons.

Bookings can be made only through the club secretary or Bob Beer at beersbees@bigpond.com or mobile 0413 208 835. Cost - \$10.

For full list of dates of field days see the BSSA website.

Saturday	10 August Time: 1 pm
Saturday	7 September Time: 10 am

A field day will not be held in the months of May, June and July.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED to assist new beekeepers on field days. Contact BSSA secretary if you are interested.

MENTOR LIST

A mentoring service is available to our new beekeepers who would like assistance at home. Please feel free to contact one of our mentors as listed below:

Southern Area:

Bob Beer 0413 208 835

Hills Peninsula & Murray Lands:

Ken Allen 0437 471 351 or
0438 262 517

Eastern Suburbs & Hills:

Michael Reeves 0401 736 742

Near Area of the Hills:

Roy Frisby-Smith 0417 834 531

Hills and Surrounding District:

Crispin Boxhall 0477 172 171

Port Adelaide, Enfield, Salisbury & Playford:

Gordon Telford 0401 669 652

President's Report



Welcome to Autumn!

Hello to our ongoing members and welcome to any new members receiving Buzzword for the first time.

I trust that you and your bees have survived the summer, and you are making preparation, if you have not already done so, to close your hives down for winter. Whether you have closed down or not will be dependent on where you live (and the time available to you) as I'm aware that some eucalypts are flowering. Overall, it has sadly been a poor season and some hives have been lost due to heat and starvation. The still ongoing lack of rain and varied weather has impacted on the amount of honey being produced due to a lack of nectar. Both amateur and commercial beekeepers have lost hives, with the commercial amount produced being on average approximately 20% down.

I know that some members have run out of honey to sell, and some are already feeding bees. Do be careful in closing down hives for winter

about how much you take or leave in your hives to get through winter and into spring.

The season has also brought reports of disease, (mostly AFB – American Foul Brood, a notifiable disease) amongst commercial beekeepers, and pests. There have also been reports of chalkbrood fungal disease in hives, particularly interstate, likely due to poor nutrition and the strength of the hive. PIRSA have further reported, and spoke at our April meeting, that they'd received and investigated the suspicion of a pest and disease in Adelaide. Teagan from PIRSA has presented disease workshops for the benefit of members at our site at Tonsley. We are very grateful for these and I'd urge members to attend future workshops if they believe they need this assistance to recognise reportable bugs and diseases.

For further information please also visit the PIRSA website. Type in PIRSA and bees and you will find lots of useful information to assist with complying with legislation. I'm aware that many of you will receive, or have just received, your yearly PIRSA legislation under the *Livestock Act*.

As usual, the BSSA and its members have been busy since the last edition of Buzzword. We have moved to our new meeting hall just down the road at Burnside, next to the town hall, and changed days to the first Monday of the month. I think everyone will agree there's more space and parking! Our 7 pm 'Beeginners' Group, led by Roy and John, continues at 7 pm and, thanks to Alexia, a new Junior's Club has begun also at 7 pm. Please note these run every 2 months, with the next meeting to be at the May meeting.

In March we said a VERY BIG thank you to Melva for her 10 years of managing the BSSA's general meeting supper. Melissa and Jason have agreed to now supply us with supper.

We have had some great guest speakers and topics including bottling and labelling laws, diseases and bugs, and the weather! at meetings, as well as for our Strictly Beekeeping segment. Field Days, led by Bob Beer, have continued at Tonsley, with those present at the last field day closing down the hives for winter. Field days will resume now in spring – please see the website for these and upcoming topics.

The BSSA has also been present at events, including the Adelaide Animal Expo at the Showgrounds, talking at the Autumn Garden Festival in Clare, a stall at the ABC Gardeners' Market, and over Easter at Sophie's Patch in the hills. Further events will include a joint stall at the Royal Adelaide Show, and Sophie's Patch in October. Thank you to all who have helped at these. Please contact the Society if you can provide the help that is required at upcoming events.

Honey, wax, mead and newly made honey cake entries for the Royal Show have just opened; with country shows opening classes for honey judging later in the year. It's great to promote beekeeping, honey and wax at these events and can be quite fun and competitive. Demonstrations and instruction will be provided next month by both judges from the Royal Show.

Please stay warm once the weather changes and enjoy your beekeeping. You may contact the Society at any time with ideas, requests, comments or concerns you may have. We are genuinely interested at want to support and promote fun, responsible beekeeping. We would greatly welcome any help at stalls and events.

Thank you, again, to all those who contribute in any way to the Society. Happy Beekeeping!

Susan



BEEKEEPING COURSES

WEA

BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS

Designed to assist those new to beekeeping in gaining a basic understanding of equipment requirements and hive management techniques.

Convenor: Keith Clark

Held regularly at WEA Centre. Phone the centre for details.

CRISPIN'S BEEKEEPING

Queen-making workshop
Beekeeping for Beginners

Contact: 0477 172 171
Email: crispin@crisinsbeekeeping.com

“WHY HAS MY HIVE DIED?”

This last year has proven to be a very tough year for beekeepers all across the state and despite suburban backyards ordinarily being an abundant floral source, lately it just hasn't been the case.

Numerous backyard beekeepers have asked “why has my hive died”? Further investigations have led to the discovery that the hive has died out from starvation. In addition, chalkbrood has been on the increase, being a stress-related disease. As bees strengthen in better conditions, quite often the chalkbrood sorts itself. Other stress-related diseases to watch out for include European foulbrood, Alvei, sacbrood and Nosema (which is more common in winter).

Despite the ongoing dry and warm conditions, winter is coming! Now is the time to prepare for the forthcoming season and reduce further stress on your bees. There are, however, preventative measures you can make in an effort to maintain or improve bee strength over winter. This includes taking hives down to singles, matting down the brood box with linoleum and feeding the bees supplementary pollen and/or sugar syrups etc.

For further guidance and advice, Agrifutures (formally RIRDC) has published an informative manual on feeding bees and it is available for download at <https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/05-054.pdf>.

A weakened hive makes an easy target for robber bees and, as a result, there's the risk that those robber bees might further spread disease. It's a good idea to inspect all of your brood frames fully before wintering them. If, during your pre-winter brood inspections, you find cells you suspect may be American foulbrood, you can take a larval smear and send it in to the Apiary

Unit at 33 Flemington St, Glenside 5065 for testing.

Also, a big thank you to all those who completed the Honeybee Health Survey. Every bit of information provided helps to identify the needs of beekeepers and the apiary industry as a whole with regards to pest and diseases of bees.

Teagan Alexander
Bee Biosecurity Officer – PIRSA
0439 864 382

Notes from March General Meeting

The recent extreme summer heat has caused much devastation of beehives in this state and forced beekeepers to think carefully about hive management techniques. Guest speaker, Paul Frost – a BSSA member – addressed the meeting with his perspective.

Getting Ready for Winter

Given the recent weather including many days around 40 degrees it is easy to forget that winter will eventually arrive again. The current drought has been devastating for many professional and backyard beekeepers. There are reported losses of hives and honey production down by 80% in some areas. Lack of rain for a prolonged period means plants are not producing their usual volume of nectar. Bees die, with their heads in cells desperate for the last drop of nectar or lie dead on the floor of hives. In these circumstances wax moth and bee disease is prevalent.



Figure 1: Hives located in partial sun

Despite this, beekeepers must prepare for winter. Depending on hive location, winter close-down and spring re-opening time can vary.

For me winter close-down is usually around mid-May and re-opening time is around early September. During this interval I avoid as much as possible opening the hives but keep a watching brief on them by regularly checking for bee activity around the hives and by hefting them to check their weight.



Figure 2: frame fully capped, suitable to extract



Figure 3: frame not fully capped, unsuitable to extract

Winter close-down for me involves a sequence of activities at each site. I also have a list of things to take to my bee sites. It is no use travelling 80 – 130 kms or so to a site and finding you have forgotten perhaps a smoker, or hive tool, hive records or some other item. My sequence is:

1. Checking my list before I depart to ensure I have everything required
2. Changing bee water or topping it up as soon as I arrive at the site
3. Note the situation around each hive. Are there any dead bees; hives that may have been tipped over damaged in any way; state of the surrounding flora
4. Smoke the hive
5. Open the hive about a minute later and check its strength
6. Remove the honey frames for extraction (or feed with a 2:1, sugar:water syrup after inspection if nectar is lacking); only take fully capped honey and leave sufficient honey for winter

7. Check state of hive ... queen/eggs/pearly white uncapped brood/capped brood present? Wax moth present? Any disease?
8. Remove older frames for clean-up and replacement of foundation
9. If hive is weak combine with another hive



Figure 4: vented brood box

Much of what is done for winter preparation depends on where the hives are sited. Just after my arrival in South Australia I was granted reservoir beekeeping licences at Myponga on the Fleurieu Peninsula and Millbrook in the Adelaide Hills. However, I no longer attempt to keep hives in the Adelaide Hills. The surrounding foliage at my Millbrook site was largely pink gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*) and I found I was continually having to feed prior to and throughout winter to sustain those bees. The cold climate was also conducive to Nosema. I had a similar experience at Bugle Ranges in the Adelaide Hills.

As an aside all my Millbrook hives were destroyed in the Ash Wednesday fires of 16 February 1983 when a series of bushfires swept across SA and Vic. Seventy-five people lost their lives in those fires and more than 3,000 buildings were destroyed. The day was part of a heatwave with very low humidity and temperatures as high as 43 degrees and winds of more than 100 kph. I am beginning to think that our present prolonged drought might be the preamble to similar circumstances.

I am regularly asked how much honey to leave bees for storage or alternatively how much to feed them prior to winter. A bit like asking "How long is a piece of string?". At Millbrook as with a number of other sites I had to feed extensively, but at a particular site on the Fleurieu Peninsula I never have to feed. That site is located within a kilometre or so of the ocean in amongst houses where there is a lot of

flora and also within flying distance of a lot of native vegetation.

I am able to extract honey in May before winter close-down and again in early September as the bees work all through winter. Days within a range of 13-38 degrees, favourable for honeybee flights occur regularly, and the bees take advantage of it. Another favourable site is a community garden with which I am associated. There we have two Paradise hives within flying distance of a plentiful water supply and again lots of varied surrounding flora.

A site with which I am familiar within the Murraylands has produced copious crops of honey over recent years. This year instead of producing a crop of honey, the bees are consuming all their stores.



Figure 5: Paradise vented hive in community garden

To have bees survive and thrive through winter the requirements are:

1. Sites with a moderate climate, not too hot or cold
2. Strong healthy hives with a good supply of fresh water nearby
3. Hives properly constructed and vented.
4. Operate conservatively by leaving ample stores for winter (but this does not preclude extracting some honey before winter close-down if there is a sufficient surplus)
5. Reduce super numbers if there is a lack of incoming nectar
6. Remove queen excluders
7. An abundance of surrounding, diverse flora

Hives are usually tilted forward to ensure water does not enter them in winter, but with vented hives that is not an issue as water can simply drain out the bottom. Vented hives by enabling superior ventilation are also healthier for the bees. They are also superior when moving sites as there is less risk of asphyxiation. There are also benefits with regard to managing Varroa, small hive beetle and other pests.

Plantings of bee-friendly plants increase the chance of your bees getting sufficient protein, acids and vitamins, and hence less chance of contracting disease. An excellent source of information on bee-friendly plants is found in Mark Leech's **Bee Friendly: A Planting Guide for European Honey Bees and Australian Native Pollinators**. It is an Australian Government (Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation) publication and can be downloaded free from <https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/12-014.pdf>

See Book Corner segment below in this edition.



Figure 6: bee-friendly borage in community garden

RECENT EVENTS

Through the hard and proactive work of our president, Susan Lonie, BSSA has been involved in several events and expos locally.



394 Springs Rd, Mount Barker
April 20th, 21st, 22nd 2019



ABC Gardeners' Market
Date: Saturday 13 April, 2019



Mark Horwood and Bronwyn Westcott



Paul Frost, Paul Bologiannis, Susan Lonie and Eugene McEwen on Saturday, 13 April 2019 at ABC Gardeners' Market

FIELD DAY Clovelly Park - Saturday, 13 April

Our final inspection for the 2018-19 season was held on Saturday 13 April. Upon inspection, our hives showed no evidence of diseases or wax moth (a first!), so the hives will be left undisturbed until our next field day in August.

We were joined by Teagan Alexander from PIRSA who brought along (in a sealed display case) a frame with American Foul Brood, as part of her presentation on bee diseases.



Teagan also demonstrated her method of identifying mites of hive beetles as part of good hive management. She called it the “sugar shake” test. Several hundred bees were shaken onto a newspaper sheet which was then rolled up so the bees could be poured into a jar. Icing sugar was dropped into the jar, the bees were given a gentle shake and then piled onto a thin white filter to be washed. They were then given individual towels to dry themselves - (no... just joking!). They were moved off the filter to see if any residual mites or beetles could be found.



It was a quick, easy, safe and useful method that we should all consider from time to time. There was a small honey flow but plenty of comb to fill. Some colonies looked reasonably strong, which could result in them eating out their stores if their numbers don't reduce soon.



Bob Beer, who conducted the session, planned to reduce the hives down to their brood box only, for good temperature control during winter.

CONVERSATIONS

Interview with Eugene McEwen



Eugene McEwen, 2004

"What got you into bees Eugene?" He says it's a big question, especially for a printer who knew nothing about "those stinging little sods" until he found himself starting to keep them.

Eugene Michael McEwen was born at Memorial Hospital in Adelaide in November 1937. His dad was a school teacher and his mum a nurse and there were three children in all. It was common in those days for school teachers to be moved around from one country town to another, so Eugene spent his early years living all over South Australia – Kyancutta, Blanchetown, Mannum, Tickera (an area school near Kadina with very good fishing) and finally Port Augusta.

In 1950 his dad was moved to Adelaide to take up the position of Deputy Principal of the Allenby Gardens Demonstration School and they lived at what was then the new suburb of Albert Park. Eugene found moving from the country to the city a "huge, hurtful challenge". At first he didn't like the city at all and found people unfriendly. But he made

friends with others who had moved in from the country and they helped each other get used to it.

After finishing school in 1954 Eugene took up an apprenticeship in the letterpress printing industry. He worked at Gillingham & Co commercial printing house in Currie Street as a compositor and later as a linotype operator and was happy with his ability and achievements as a printer. But the biggest milestone and blessing in his life was marrying Patricia McPhee in May 1961.

They settled in Pauls Drive, Valley View and then, strangely, kids came along! Funnily enough that meant they needed more money and although Eugene knew how to print it himself, he wasn't game enough to do that. So in 1968 he went to work for Rupert Murdoch's News Limited on North Terrace. He spent 18 years there on the piecework linotype battery until Rupert sold *The News* in 1985. Eugene returned to commercial print at Gillingham Printers until his retirement in 2003.

So, only 66 and retired!!! What was he going to do?? He was an avid fisherman (he still travels twice a year to Darwin where their youngest daughter lives; a hobbyist gardener (he has a hobby garden at their eldest daughter's place at Norton Summit); he's involved with fundraising and charity work (with the St Vincent de Paul Society); he's a lawn bowls addict; and he was keen to travel the world with Patricia and travel to Perth to see their two sons.

It was a very full life. But one day something "fell from heaven into the compost bin at home". A swarm of bees had entered through the handle grip spaces. Eugene's reaction was far from positive; in fact he recalls

thinking, "These bastards have to go!" and grabbed a can of insect spray to exterminate the bees. That would have been the end of it, but Patricia stepped in and said no way – the bees must not be killed – they were important for the flowers and the fruit trees and honey.

She rang an apiarist who had advertised in the paper but was told that the bees were feral and would be no good. Undeterred, she rang the council, but they only said they'd send someone out to destroy them, which was no good. Patricia was determined the bees would live, and they would keep them there at home.

At about this point Eugene remembered reading a book about Sherlock Holmes (*The Second Stain*) where Holmes, now retired (c.1904), takes up beekeeping and even produces a practical handbook of bee culture with some observations on the segregation of the queen. Eugene decided that if Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's character could do this in his retirement, why shouldn't he? The beekeeping part that is - he didn't aspire to writing any handbooks!

So he checked the White Pages and went down to Guilfoyle's Beekeeping Equipment where he got some advice and a second-hand full-depth 10 frame bee box with frames and foundation. With the help of a friend's father who knew a bit about bees he removed the lid of the compost bin and put the box of frames over the top. He got stung everywhere except the roof of his mouth and the soles of his feet and was mightily unimpressed (he put it just a bit more strongly than that!) but the exercise was a success. In a short while all the bees had moved up into the box! And Eugene went and invested in a veil, gloves and full bee suit. Thus, the year 2003 saw the

start of McEwen's bees and beekeeping became a very enjoyable hobby.

Eugene joined the Amateur Beekeepers' Society of South Australia (now BSSA) in 2004, where he met Bob Beer, Len Turner and Bill Catchpoole, who gave him a lot of help with his hive. He expanded to 6 hives and stopped at that – 3 hives at Norton Summit and 3 at Paracombe. He no longer has any in his backyard due to an "interesting" back fence neighbour and a wife who got stung on the nose. Two interesting stories that Eugene will tell you if you care to ask at a meeting one day.

Eugene keeps careful records of all aspects of his beekeeping, just for his own interest; for example, extraction dates, times and places; all expenses incurred (including yearly registration of hives and BSSA subs); all honey disposal information (sales, amounts given away, mead making, wax disposal, own consumption, promotional gifts).



He notes that the hobby costs far outstrip any income, but he doesn't mind. He remembers sitting with his bees once, with a glass of red, just watching them landing and taking off and doing their figure-eight dances; he was enjoying his wine and noticed the bees seemed to dance better as he

drank, and he wondered what their message to us would be if they could talk. He decided they'd probably say, "Stop spraying our food, because if you don't you are going to have big problems with yours soon. And even worse, if you kill every insect on the planet it'll be the end for you humans."

The BSSA has played an important part in Eugene's life as a beekeeper. When he first joined, he thought the members were a cliquy mob who didn't want to welcome newcomers but as soon as he started to volunteer his help at meetings, he realised that it was an appreciative society and that to benefit from it he needed to participate in it fully.

Some of the things he has participated in include the Royal Show, Animal Expo, Gardeners' Market, and Field Days. He won seven prizes at the Royal Show (three firsts and four seconds) in the years 2009-2012.



Eugene at Royal Show, 2009

Eugene believes that the younger generation of members are the Society's future and hopes that with the knowledge, traditions, support and encouragement of the "oldies" they'll thrive as beekeepers.



Eugene (centre) with Paul Bologiannis, ABC Gardener' Market 2009

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Extreme weather decimates bee populations across Adelaide

Beekeepers experiencing the worst honey season in 30 years are desperately trying to revive hives across Adelaide decimated by extreme weather conditions

(Article in *The Advertiser* by Colin James, 3 March 2019)

Beekeepers across Adelaide are desperately trying to revive hives as they experience the worst honey season in 30 years. Apiarists say prolonged dry conditions and recent heatwaves — including January's record hottest day — have combined to decimate bee populations. They are relocating hives and trapping swarms in a bid to restore bee numbers in urban areas throughout the city.

Adelaide Bee Sanctuary founder Sandra Ullrich said there were widespread reports of hives being destroyed by last month's excessive heat. Ms Ullrich said bees had already been struggling across Adelaide before the city was hit by record temperatures exceeding 46C on January 23.

Two years of relatively dry conditions had left gum trees without nectar, causing bees to starve and unable to fly long distances in search of alternative food sources. There has been an 80 per cent decline in honey production

statewide,” she said. “It’s been the worst season since 1977. I have lost 10 hives this season but there’s been a lot more for other beekeepers.”



Bees Adelaide sanctuary founder Sandra Ullrich at the Athelstone Community Garden. Picture: Colin James Source:Supplied

Ms Ullrich said beehives were located in numerous community gardens across metropolitan Adelaide and other spots such as Adelaide Zoo. Celebrity chefs Simon Bryant and Poh Ying Liew had beehives while three had been located at Government House at the request of Governor Hieu van Le. Ms Ullrich obtained permission from Campbelltown Council at its last meeting to install a second hive at the Athelstone Community Garden.

“It’s really important that we try to get bees into climates where there will be more temperate conditions,” she said. “The future of beekeeping really lies in the urban environment and the experience so far is that cohabitation between humans and bees can work.”

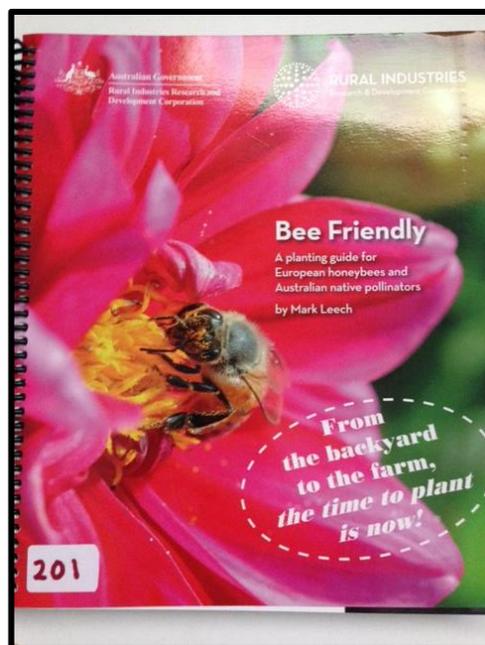
Ms Ullrich said members of the public could help by reporting any swarms to the Adelaide Bee Sanctuary. “We will send apiarists to catch the swarms as they will contain a queen bee,” she said. “We then take the swarms to somewhere with a hive and use them to repopulate.” Anyone who sees a bee swarm in the metropolitan area can contact Ms Ullrich on 0412 967 991.

(Originally published as Beehives stung by hot, dry weather)



BOOK CORNER

Books from the BSSA library collection are available for lending to members at monthly meetings, generally on a one-month basis (by negotiation). Our librarian, Sue Speck, will be delighted to help members select a suitable book if they require assistance.



BEE FRIENDLY – A planting guide for European honeybees and Australian native pollinators

by Mark Leech

An Australian Government publication – Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, 2012

This spiral-bound book is a planting guide for bee forage and describes planting choices “from the backyard to the bush” – and to the farm – and will assist with increasing available bee food.

It is written at a time when the world has become aware of the plight of the honeybee, and this book has been written in the context of providing guidance for planting decisions in favour of plants that benefit honeybees and native pollinators. That point is made, however, that some plants are listed as weeds should not be planted. Your local nursery can provide you with advice as to whether a plant is a listed weed.

The book covers information relating to urban sites in general, domestic gardens, garden species selection, streetscapes and species, urban open spaces, rural areas and species; in addition, a chapter is devoted to non-migratory beekeeping – the basic backyard beekeeper. Large colour photographs, together with useful information about climatic and soil conditions relating to geographic areas, as well as maps, enhance the overall presentation.

Generally, this guide gives ideas and choices of species to bring about improved outcomes for honeybees and the Australian pollen- and nectar-using fauna, including mammals, insects and birds.

Reviewed by Barbara Horwood



BEE-FRIENDLY PLANT TO GROW



HABIT: Very compact perennial, the tallest variety in the series growing slightly more vigorous than others in the series. Height 40cm high by 50cm wide.

POSITION: Full sun to part-shade, well-drained soil, keep drier in winter.

FLOWERING: Elite Pink Sapphire will flower all year but the best flowering period is during the warmer weather. Bracteantha Elite hold its flowers for long periods on short stems and requires far less pruning to encourage new blooms. The flowers are a deep pink edge with a lighter centre.

USES: A very versatile plant. They fit in planted around natives, succulents, cottage or in a feature pot on your back veranda. They require little maintenance and will give you lots of striking flowers right throughout the hottest months.

CARE: Use hedge shears to tip prune to shape when required; this will quickly encourage a bushier plant and repeat flower. Ensure this is only done in the warmer weather when they will recover quickly. Do not prune into old woody growth unless new shoots are present; regular light trims are preferable. They will perform better and flower more profusely with average garden watering and a fertilize every season with an all-purpose organic fertilizer.

VIDEO TO WATCH

Small Business Secrets – BizSecrets – Nina’s Bees

View this interesting and inspiring story screening on SBS On Demand. Just click on the link below or copy the hyperlink into your browser.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/1086596675701/bizsecrets-ninas-bees>

DID YOU KNOW ... ?



Did you know a 450 gram of honey requires 1152 bees to travel 180.246km and visit 4.5 million flowers. That's 156 km per bee!

RECIPES

Tasty Autumn Dish!

DUCK AND VEGETABLE STIR-FRY



Sunflower or peanut oil
2 skinless duck breasts, cut into thin strips
1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh ginger
1 red chilli, sliced
6 spring onions, sliced
500g pak choy, sliced
1 teaspoon soy sauce
1 tablespoon honey
2 tablespoons oyster sauce
1 teaspoon cornflour

Make wok really hot, then add 2 teaspoons of oil. Add duck and stir fry for 2 minutes, then remove with a slotted spoon. Add 1 teaspoon more oil and tip in ginger, chilli, three-quarters of the spring onions and the pack choy.

Cook until pak choy is just wilted. Drizzle in soy, honey and oyster sauce and return duck to wok. Bubble for a minute.

Mix cornflour with 2 teaspoons cold water and stir until smooth, add to wok and cook until sauce thickens and becomes glossy.

Sprinkle over remaining spring onions.
Serves 3-4.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE “buzz” AROUND TOWN????

The humble bee is being promoted in more ways than one!



Sign located in shop window advertising domestic cleaning



Facebook picture from Save the Bees Australia (Andre Van Der Merwe)