



The Sting

The official newsletter of the Southside beekeepers club.

SOUTHSIDE BEEKEEPERS MISSION STATEMENT

We work to ensure a thriving and sustainable beekeeping industry.

To this end we advocate for beekeepers' interests, support honey bee health research and deliver practical training, education, mentoring and information

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to both my first report and inaugural copy of THE STING. THE STING is to be all your information for our club. This month it is brief but please send us ideas for next month. Just drop an email to Susie.

Our first month in office has been very productive with committee meetings each week. The AGM was disappointing, and we have now stopped the haemorrhage of money and the legal conforming of model rules are now in place.

We have had constructive meetings with the Frankston Council in relation to a grant and a new home for Southside Beekeepers. They are preparing a variety of options and I thank them for their enthusiastic support of our club.

Regular STING contributors will be Ian Brown (a life member) and Keith Edwards of The Diggers Club. We also will have upcoming events, cooking with honey, a For Sale section (free to members) maybe a joke and a bee puzzle.

Beekeeping courses are under review with our sub committee reporting to me this week. Course dates will be announced in the next STING.

Carol Schuman resigned as Secretary within 24 hours of the AGM and the committee has voted for Susie Kirkham to be secretary for 2019.

The Social sub committee is organizing a fabulous Xmas Party on Sat Dec 1st. Please keep this date free. It is going to be a great night!

The STING will be our main communication to you, but also watch our website and Facebook for any announcements.

Have a buzzy month.

Allan

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2019 ARE NOW PAYABLE.

EFTPOS AVAILABLE AT OUR MEETING.

FREE COPY OF 'INSIDE THE HIVE'

FOR PAYMENT BEFORE 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018

<https://southsidebeekeepers.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/southsidebeekeepersclub/>

The program for next Meeting

Topic: Ian Brown
Chairman: Allan Evans
Date: 22nd August 2018

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The Sting

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OUR TRAVELLING MEMBERS PAM AND TONY SHEUMACK VISITED A BEE MUSEUM IN GREECE AND HAVE SUPPLIED THIS EXCITING REPORT

Bee Museum in Rhodes.

In May of this year, as part of a trip to various parts of Greece, we were fortunate to visit the island of Rhodes for three days. Being relatively new to the world of beekeeping, we were keen to visit the Bee Museum in Melissokomki just outside the city of Rhodes.

The Museum is divided into three sections.

1. History. Here we saw both stone and wooden cells which were used for traditional beekeeping in the Greek Islands, as well as various wooden presses used for extraction and early pots and tools. We read about archaeological ruins on Agathonisi where 10,000 fragments of two different types of clay were found, dating back to the 3rd Century BC. Some of these were inscribed with "Kypselion" the Greek word for beehive. In ancient Kameiros of Rhodes, archaeologists unearthed gold tiles from around 1860 BC inscribed with winged female figures with the body of a bee, presumed to be a bee goddess.

2. Bee Products. There were actual and replica examples of early wooden tools used for beekeeping as well as current tools. There is an adjoining shop where it is possible to buy modern day beekeeping supplies similar to the ones used in Australia, including some very large stainless-steel extractors.

3. Honey and Pollination. This section had many displays and provided an interactive experience with digital exhibitions and educational games for children.

The ceiling of the museum resembles a large section of honeycomb and the layout is effective and interesting.

Outside there is a bee garden planted with herbs and flowers which are attractive to bees. After seeing the extensive plantings of thyme and tasting some delicious thyme honey, we were inspired to come home and plant some thyme seedlings. We now have thirty thyme plants of five different varieties in our bee enclosure as well as four different varieties of Manuka planted, so we look forward to some very flavorsome honey in the near future.

We feel privileged to have had the experience of visiting the Bee Museum and came away with the sense that the practice of Apiary is a venerable one with much to learn.

Just inside the door we were reminded of the words of Albert Einstein who told us that " If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe then man would only have four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man."

Tony & Pam Sheumack.



IAN BROWN

OUR ESTEEMED LIFE MEMBER IS TO BE A MONTHLY CONTRIBUTOR TO THE STING

SWARMING

Some days before the swarm emerges, worker bees will have been scouting the neighborhood looking for a new home, which in nature, would be a beautifully sized cavity in rocks or a hollow tree, but which now extends to many man made objects such as compost bins, possum boxes, letter boxes, wall cavities, or any other location offering reasonable protection from weather or predators. If the scout bees have been successful, the swarm may proceed directly to its new home, but if not, the swarm will settle on some new convenient place such as a branch of a tree until the scout bees have located a new home.

Having located and occupied, a new home, the bees must build comb so that the queen can start laying eggs as soon as possible, remembering that it takes 21 days from when eggs are laid until a new generation of workers emerge to replace the older workers dying from natural causes. They also have to collect sufficient stores of honey during the remainder of the year to last over winter when there is no nectar coming in. For this reason swarming normally takes place in Spring and early summer. (September to December in Victoria),

For the modern beekeeper, swarming reduces the strength, and hence the honey gathering ability of a hive, as well as causing problems with neighbors and local authorities, and measures should be taken to prevent it if possible. These measures come under the two headings of swarm prevention and swarm control.

SWARM PROTECTION

Under certain circumstances, the queen produces chemicals, called pheromones, which are distrusted throughout the colony by workers grooming the queen as she passes amongst them, and these pheromones discourage, the bees from raising new queens and thus triggering swarming. As young queens in full lay produce maximum pheromones, it is good swarm prevention practice to have colonies headed by young queens, and to ensure that they have ample space to lay by adding an extra box of combs or foundation when necessary. Extra space should be given before the bees become too overcrowded, but conversely, do not pile empty boxes on the hive in the mistaken idea that this will stop the bees swarming. Just ensure that the bees can comfortably occupy the boxes without being overcrowded.

Another method of swarm prevention, when the bees are becoming overcrowded, consists of adding another box of frames or foundation and re-arranging the brood frames to form a pyramid. For examples, if the hive consists of one 8 frame box with 6 frames of brood, take 2 of the frames of brood and put them in the centre of a second box on top of the first. In this way, you have made a pyramid of brood frames with 4 frames of brood in the first and 2 frames of brood above them in the second box. Similarly, if you have a hive consisting of two 8 frame boxes, with 6 frames of brood in the first box and 5 frames of brood in the second. Take a third box and rearrange the frames of brood so that there are 4x frames of brood in the first box, 4x frames of brood in the second box and 3x frames of brood in the 3rd box.

Push the frames of brood to the centre of their respective boxes and again fill the spaces with the comb or foundation.

In this case you would have formed a pyramid of brood with 4x frames of brood in the first box 4 in the second and 3 in the third box.

Brood arranged in this way needs more nurse bees to care for the brood, as well as giving extra space and can lessen the chance of swarming.

Another means of preventing swarming consists of reducing then strength of the hive by taking away several brood frames to for a nucleus hive.

This has the double affect of reducing the population by removing nurse bees and brood and creating more space by replacing the frames that have been removed with empty combs and foundation.

Equipment needed, - 4 frame nucleus box, 4x brood frames or frames of foundation.

***OUR BEE CLUB MEMBER AND LANDSCAPE DESIGNER OF DIGGERS SEEDS
KEITH EDWARDS WILL RECOMMEND BEE FRIENDLY PLANTING.***

Things to do for a Bee Friendly Garden this month.



Great time now to feed all of your plants with an organic fertilizer such as Blood & Bone, Chook pellets, horse manure, stable manure or better still compost. Apply any of these around the Drip-line of the plant, that is to the edge of the plants canopy or branch extent, not up against the plants trunk. These natural fertilizers will take around 2 months to become available to the plant as a food, promoting flowering and fruiting.

This month will see me pruning the last of the flowers of my Salvias and is achieved by removing all of the long and straggly branches back into the newly formed basal leaves that have appeared during the winter. The pruned salvia branches will then be either composted or mulched to be returned back to the garden.

Plants that are flowering during these colder months, providing a source of food for the Bees are of course the over 900 species of known Salvias, Agastache, Gaillardia, Kniphofia, Viburnums, Hellebores, Hardenbergia, Daphne, Luculia, Lavender, Bergenia, Pieris and Primula varieties.

This also a great time to be preparing your soil for the addition of the above plants, digging in well composted material to attract microbial life that will benefit newly planted specimens in early Spring.

Enjoy your time in the garden.

Ads to members free! Max 50 words and one photo.

BUSINESS ON THE BUZZ

For sale

Fully ventilated bee suits specially designed and available for September. Order and try on for sizing next meeting only. This is a once off, you must order by the next meeting. Don't miss it!. Price \$170.00 and \$25.00 for gloves. Cash sales only.

For all queries contact Jerome on 0432 598 770

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