



# THE BEEKEEPER

Volume 27 Issue 1 January 2015

Quarterly Newsletter. Established 1954

The North Shore Beekeepers Association (NSW) Inc.

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



Our 60th Anniversary Christmas lunch was a huge success. Pictured above are 6 past and our current President. From left to right they are Greg Deacon, Justin Luff, Sue Ellison, Malcolm Manville, Phil Kavanagh, Wal McCrorie and Peter Marvel.



**Bee Garden Field Days 11am**

**Sunday 18th January  
Sunday 15th February  
Sunday 15th March**

# ***From the Editor***

***Caroline Jago***



Happy New Year to all I was in Tasmania in December and enjoyed the many markets taking every opportunity to sample as much honey as was possible. One stall holder “Grumpy Bee Honey” specialised in rescuing bees which would otherwise be exterminated. They nest in places such as chimneys, water meter boxes and walls. They affectionately call them ‘refubees’. The Christmas luncheon was great fun and thanks to all those who bought such wonderful food to share.

# ***From the President***

***Phil Kavanagh***

2014 was a good year for the North Shore Beekeepers Association. We have constant growth in membership with over 230 financial members currently active

The Christmas luncheon, hosted this year by members Mark and Caroline Jago, was an outstanding success with about 60 members attending. Many thanks for opening up your beautiful house for the club to use for our 60th anniversary. My thanks go to past president Sue Ellison who made a monetary donation to the luncheon as well as bringing a 60th anniversary cake to the celebration. Also a big thank you to Atif Jamil from Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies who donated some very good quality beekeeping items for door prizes on the day. Six past presidents were there and a toast to the club was made and re-made several times. A good time was had by all.

The alternating Bee Garden days continue to be successful thanks to the generosity of Watermaid and Kavanagh Balloons, however, we are all looking forward to a permanent site. The club hives are in a sad state of repair and we need some members to step up and help in the upkeep and to keep the grass down as well as remove frames for extraction. This is good experience for new beekeepers and will certainly gain experience for looking at your own hives, so phone me to start work.

On occasion the outside sales events have been well attended with the exception of the Bunnings barbecue. The honey sales team was well represented but not the sausage sellers. From now on members will be expected to attend at least one outside sales event and a roster will be prepared to this end with several months notice so sufficient numbers will be in attendance.

You must remember that the growth of membership brings an expectation of better service from your club and this can only be achieved with healthy finances. Volunteer help will keep the club ticking along and make it better for everyone.

The price the club is willing to pay for members honey for resale has risen to \$6 per kilo. Please contact Joan Stebbing if you have any spare honey to sell. The club will supply the jars so you can bottle and return it for \$3 per jar.

Don't forget the Bee Garden day 18th January at Mount Kuring-Gai.



All the best in beekeeping  
Phil Kavanagh



## **JANUARY**

This is a busy time for extracting the weather has warmed up the honey to make it flow like a river. Make sure you leave some honey in the hive - at least two frames in the brood chamber, in case we get some wet weather. Don't forget the bees will need a lot of fresh water to keep their hive cool.

## **FEBRUARY**

Regularly check your hives and extract whenever you have 8 or more sealed frames. If there is lots of honey give them extra supers. Wax moth is around this time of year. Make sure you have spare frames and at least one spare box. Take care when lighting your smoker, especially if your bees are in a dry/bush area. Always have a container of water with you.

## **MARCH**

Last chance to re-queen hives. If you have a failing or old queen attend to this in March. Surplus honey should be taken off now and extracted. Weak colonies should be united.

## ***Calling all Young Beekeepers!***

I know you are out there, sad to say not one entry for our drawing competition. So here is another chance to win a sausage lunch for the family and to have your drawing printed in The Beekeeper. The subject is bees, in the garden, in the sky, where ever you like and the age groups are:

- 3 years to 6 years old
- 7 years to 10 years old
- 11 years to 14 years old

You can bring the finished picture on A4 along to the next bee garden day and the winners will be announced in the next newsletter.

## **FLYING DOCTOR BEES**

University of Adelaide researchers are introducing a method to use bees to deliver disease control to cherry blossom, preventing brown rot in cherries. This is a new technique for Australia and a world first for cherry orchards with potential application in many horticultural industries. It was demonstrated publicly for the first time at a field day in September hosted by Cherry Growers of South Australia and the researchers at Lennane Orchards, Montacute.

“Brown rot is caused by a fungus which significantly impacts the \$150 million Australian cherry industry through costs of applying fungicide, yield loss and fruit spoilage.” says project leader and bee researcher Dr Katja Hogendoorn, postdoctoral research associate with the University's School of Agriculture, Food and Wine. “Instead of spraying fungicide, we're using bees to deliver a biological control agent right to the flower where it is needed. This uses an innovative delivery method called entomovectoring.”

Every morning, the cherry grower sprinkles the spores into a specially designed dispenser that has been fitted in front of the hive. The bees pick up the spores between their body hairs and bring them to the flowers. “The ‘flying doctors’ technology is used successfully in Europe to control strawberry grey mould, but it's the first time for Australia and the first time in cherry orchards anywhere,” Dr Hogendoorn says. Dr Hogendoorn says the use of bees has many environmental and economic benefits compared to spraying fungicide. “The bees deliver control on target, every day,”. “There is no spray drift or run-off into the environment, less use of heavy equipment, water, labour and fuel.”

Dr Hogendoorn says adoption of the technique will have the additional benefit of building up the honeybee industry and the number of managed hives. This will help prepare Australia for the expected incursion of the Varroa mite. With increasing availability of suitable biological control agents, future application of the ‘flying doctors’ technology is expected to become available for disease control in almonds, grapes, strawberry, raspberry, apple, pear and stone fruit. The ‘flying doctors’ project is funded by the Australian Government through a Department of Agriculture Innovation Grant.

**Dr Katja Hogendoorn Adelaide University**

**Published Bee Flight November 2014**

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the members of the North Shore Beekeepers Association (NSW) Inc. will be held at the Senior Citizens Hall, 259 Pacific Highway, Lindfield on Wednesday 8th day of April 2015 at 8pm.

## Agenda

- . **To confirm the Minutes of the AGM held on the 9th day of April 2014.**
- . **To receive the President's Report.**
- . **To receive the Treasurer's Report.**
- . **Election of Office Bearers and Committee**
- . **Appoint an Auditor**

Nomination Forms for the election of office bearers are available from the Secretary. Completed forms must be received by the Secretary (PO Box 3070 North Turramurra NSW 2074) not later than 31st March 2015.

## Proxies

Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as proxy by notice given to the Secretary, no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed. A form of proxy accompanies this notice of meeting. No member may hold more than five (5) proxies.

Peter Marvell  
Secretary  
January 1, 2015

## 2015 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the year 2015 are due on 1st January 2015.

New members who joined the association after 1st October 2014 need not renew their subscription as their 2014 subscription will cover 2015.

For your convenience, a subscription renewal form is included with this newsletter.

Family \$35  
Adult \$30  
Junior/Pensioner \$20  
Pensioner Family \$25  
New-member Joining fee \$10

# **SHOW TIME AGAIN FOLKS!**

## **Sydney Royal National Honey Show**

Advice has been received that the closing dates for entries are:

Offline - Wednesday 14th January 2015

Online - Wednesday 21st January 2015

Offline entries attract an additional processing fee of \$8. To enter online visit [www.sydneymarroyal.com.au/honey](http://www.sydneymarroyal.com.au/honey). Entry by fax (02) 9704 1122.

To enter offline phone 02 9704 1449 and a copy of the schedule and entry forms will be mailed to you. Entry fees for Small Producers Classes is \$8 per entry. Exhibits are required to reach the showground not later than 3.30pm on Friday 20th March 2015.

Members are encouraged to enter the competition. You learn a lot about your honey. It's also good fun. We got a buzz out of seeing our honey and candles for the first time in the show last year.

### **Small Producers Classes**

Open to beekeepers of not more than 20 colonies. Prizes in each class: 1st \$60, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$10 unless otherwise stated.

Class 35 Three 500g glass jars, liquid honey, standard colour, light.

Class 36 Three 500g glass jars, liquid honey, standard colour, very light.

Class 37 Three 500g glass jars, liquid honey, standard colour, medium.

Class 38 Three 500g glass jars, liquid honey, standard colour, dark.

Class 40 Three 500g glass jars, natural granulation, fine grain.

Class 41 Three 500g glass jars, creamed, fine grain.

Class 42 Three 450g sections, comb honey.

Class 43 Beeswax, natural yellow, not less than 1kg in one block, (round, square or rectangular - no fancy shapes).

Small producers are entitled also to enter the Open Classes. See the schedule for details eg candles, wax moulds, mead etc.

Note: Glass jars are to be 375 ml round jars with a white 63mm lid.

**Good luck to all who enter!**

# BEE EXCITED, HONEY IS LIQUID GOLD!



Australian beekeepers could be set for a boom, earning up to \$30/kg for honey if new research confirms honey produced from various species of Australian manuka trees have antibacterial properties.

Honey is increasingly being used for the treatment of wounds and skin infections due to its potent antibacterial and healing properties, including major infections like Golden Staph, E-coli and super bugs which are now becoming untreatable with modern antibiotics.

Currently, the majority of medical grade honey is sourced from New Zealand, where two species of *Leptospermum* (the manuka tree) are earning the industry an estimated \$75 million a year. This is likely to increase to \$1 billion over the next 10 years.

Australia has 83 different species of manuka trees, leaving the door ajar for our beekeepers to seriously grow their profit margins if this project can systematically identify which species make the most therapeutically active honey and where they are located in Australia.

The research is being led by the institute at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). It is funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), Capilano Honey Ltd and Comvita Ltd under the Honey Bee and Pollination R&D Program, which is jointly funded by RIRDC and Horticultural Australia Limited (HAL).

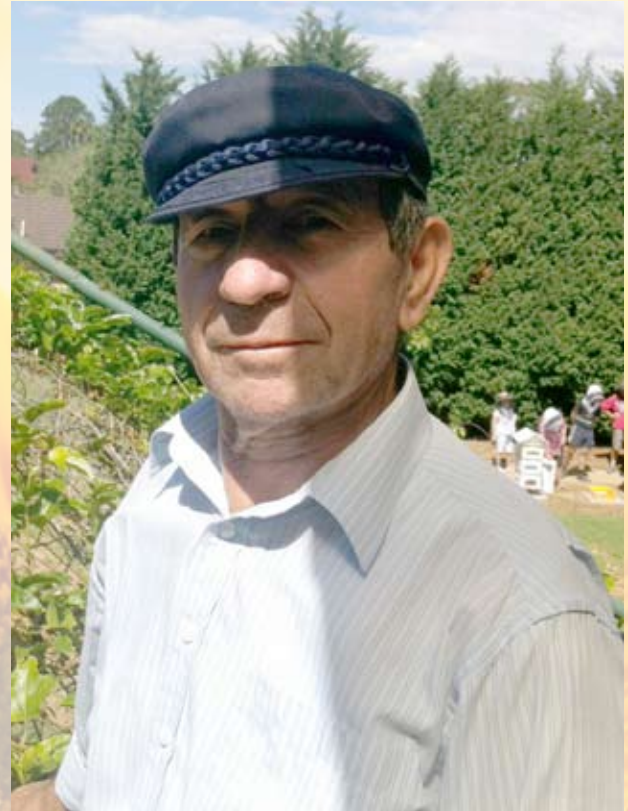
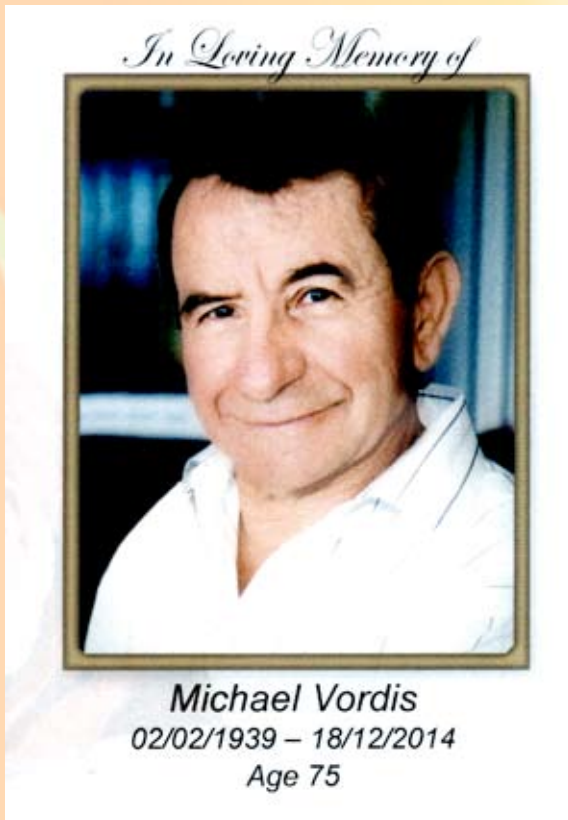
Honey Bee and Pollination R&D Program spokesperson Ben Hooper said each Australian species of manuka needs to be investigated thoroughly to measure antibacterial properties before its honey can be incorporated into commonly used wound gels and dressings.

“We know the science is accurate, but we have only just scratched the surface when it comes to honey research in Australia. When it is determined which manuka species provide the necessary qualities, research tells us the Australian honey sector has the potential to increase its profits by as much as 50% a year,” he said. “Antibiotic resistance is a global health problem and the industry pipeline for new antibiotics is running dry. Honey is steadily emerging in clinics as an alternative treatment for various infections. Critically, unlike antibiotics, bacteria cannot develop resistance to manuka honey and Australian beekeepers stand to capitalise on this growing international market. UTS researchers, and their co-investigators at the University of Sydney and the University of the Sunshine Coast, believe Australian honey is as potent as, if not more potent than, the New Zealand variety and Australian beekeepers will inevitably be the beneficiaries from this ground-breaking research.”

For more information about the Honey Bee and Pollination Program, go to [www.rirdc.gov.au/honeybee-pollination](http://www.rirdc.gov.au/honeybee-pollination)

*(Reprinted from the December 20th issue of The Australasian Beekeeper)*

# MICHAEL VORDIS 1939-2014



It is with much sadness the we acknowledge the passing of one of the clubs most passionate Beekeepers and long time Committee member Michael Vordis. Michael was Assistant Equipment Officer and worked with Jim to share the load. He will be greatly missed by many.

Michael was born in Ioannina, Greece in 1939, and migrated to Australia in 1965. Michael was a regular winner at The Royal Easter Show from 1992 and in 2014 he won several prizes including Champion Small Producers.

Michael was very proud that he was so gentle with his Bees that he never got stung. He is survived by his wife Malamo, 3 children Vasiliki, Konstantinos & Irene, Son In Law Simon & 3 grandchildren, Stephen, Michaela & Zoe...and his beloved Bees.

## **Once Meek**

Once meek, and in a perilous path,  
The just man kept his course along  
The vale of death.  
Roses are planted where thorns grow,  
And on the barren heath  
Sing the honey bees.

William Blake

## Swarm Collectors

Want to be a swarm collector? You just need to be registered on the web site then you will receive calls from the public.

The list is open to all financial members  
Phone Phil Kavanagh on  
0402 232014 or 9482 3836

## Honey Wanted

As always, the club needs further supplies of honey for outdoor sales. If you know of anyone who can help us out, please contact  
Joan Stebbing Phone: 9489 6476.

## *A warm welcome to our new members!*

Robin and Winston Berry  
Georgina Brunyee  
Charles and Alexandra Bogle  
Justin Clark  
Robert and Ligita Cooper  
Julian Dinsdale  
Yafan Dong  
Ian Dyke  
Glen FAMILTON  
Janet Frahn  
Marie Gunderson-Briggs  
Denis and Claire Hadley  
Isobel and Richard Garner  
Kate and Mark Kerr  
Hannah and Trevor Martin  
Michael Mackenzie  
Heather Mcilwain  
Hamish McIntosh  
Stephanie and Tom Pragastis  
Lawson Pratt  
Stacey Schaedler  
Barbara Schmelzer  
Chris Severn  
Lisa Shannon  
Louisa Skinner  
Jonathon Springfield  
Michael and Christopher Syme  
Ellen Tonkin  
Michael Walton  
Helen Watkins  
June Wright  
Alison Wykes  
Michael Q

## VERSE - OGDEN NASH

**I eat my peas with honey  
I've done it all my life  
It makes the peas taste funny,  
But it keeps them on the knife!**





# QUEEN BEE OF THE WEEK SUE ELLISON



Past President from 1991 -1996

## **Why did you join the club?**

I joined the club to learn about bees. It was hard to find a club then I was a member for about a year before becoming involved with the Committee and became Secretary. I was also the editor of The Beekeeper, though we didn't have the resources of today.

## **How did the club help you?**

Well the learning curve started straight away. We had a small bee garden with practical days the same as you have now.

## **How did you help the club?**

As President I had a lot to do with Kuring-gai Council to have the Bee Garden established. Helping me was Ian Savins and Brother Paul. The best advice I had was from Brother Paul, who said before our submission to the council meeting, "You will be asked questions, take a step back and a deep breath and then answer". It was great advice because there were lots of questions.

## **What were your experiences keeping bees?**

I went to work at Hornsby Beekeeping and I enjoyed talking to beekeepers. I started with 2 hives and had up to 11 with Brother Paul Schultz. We took the bees out to the country chasing honey flows. The hives were at Hartley and moved back to Ingleside with Brother Paul in Winter. We also pollinated plums and peaches up at Mangrove Mountain with Martin.

## **Any advice for new or old beekeepers?**

I think it is important to read all you can and talk to beekeepers about beekeeping. That way you learn so much.

## Meetings, Events & Activities

### NSBKA Meetings

7.30pm start for 8pm meeting

We meet on the second Wednesday of every second month at the Senior Citizen's Hall, 259 Pacific Highway, Lindfield. Library operates from 7.30pm to 8pm

### Sunday Field days at a Beegarden 11am - 1pm

Field days are on the Sunday following the second Wednesday of each month. A sausage sizzle is provided from 12 noon.

## January

Sun 18 10 Marina Close Mt Kuring-Gai

## February

Wed 8 Lindfield Meeting 7.30pm for 8pm  
Bruce White, Beekeeping in Tonga

Sun 15 Field Day  
24 Tepko Road, Terrey Hills.  
11am - 1pm

## March

Sun 16 Field Day  
10 Marina Close Mt Kuring-Gai  
11am - 1pm

## COMMITTEE 2014-2015

President	Phil Kavanagh	9482 3836
Vice President	Keith Pester	9938 4694
Treasurer	Ted Romer	9450 0244
Secretary	Peter Marvell	9440 2265
Membership	Ian Savins	9449 5296
Apiary Officer	Greg Deakin	0410 742 953
Public Officer	Ian Savins	9449 5296
Equipment Officer	Jim Toliopoulos	9727 4584
Librarian	Roger Murphy	0438 617 308
Newsletter Editor	Caroline Jago	0416017542
Outside Sales Co-ordinator	Joan Stebbing	9489 6476

## EXTRACTORS AND EQUIPMENT FOR FINANCIAL MEMBERS USE

Greg Deakin (Terrey Hills)	0410 742 953
Roger Murphy (extractor) Hornsby Heights	0438617 308
Ian Savins (wiring boards) (St Ives)	9449 5296
Keith Pester (Freshwater)	9938 4694

## SWARM REMOVAL

The Association collects swarms for the community. Contact these people if you know of anyone in need of swarm removal, call Greg Deakin, Keith Pester, Phil Kavanagh or join the swarm list on the web site and enjoy this activity yourself.

## Volunteering January

Call Phil Kavanagh to help with the clubs hives and extraction.  
9482 3836 or 0402 232014

**Please sell your honey to the club at \$3 per jar for our outside sales fundraising. We will supply the jars and lids.**

## BANKING DETAILS

BSB 032-083 Account Number 16-8197  
The North Shore Beekeepers Association (NSW) Inc  
PO Box 3070, North Turramurra, NSW, 2074



[www.nsbka.org.au](http://www.nsbka.org.au)



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