Beelines

Newsletter of The Beekeepers Club Inc. Est 1998.

AUGUST 2016.

Mission statement:
To enhance the learning and better practices
of the art of beekeeping within our community.

2nd prize 2016 competition. Photo Jorg Kemper

Meeting venue; Performing Arts Centre
Templestowe College. 7 Cypress Ave Lower Templestowe.
Meetings held 3rd Thursday of each month 7.00pm for 7.30pm.
Guests and Visitors are Welcome
Enquiries and information: editor@beekeepers,org.au

Committee of Management 2016/2017.

Beekeepers Club Inc
Registered not for profit organization
No. A0036394L

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Next Meeting.

18th August 2016. 7.30pm Meeting start.
8.20pm Varroa *jacobsoni* Incursion and latest update.
Presentation by Mr Trevor Weatherhead
Executive Director. AHBIC

NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THIS MEETING to
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE TEMPLESTOWE COLLEGE
. 7 CYPRESS AVE LOWER TEMPLESTOWE.

This is a very important forum for beekeepers regardless of how many hives you have. I urge you all to come along and hear the latest update on the Varroa *jacobsoni* incursion and steps being taken to control and how it will affect beekeeping in Australia.

Upcoming Events.

Beginners Course.
Sept 22nd, 29th and Oct 6th. Plus 1 x hands on day
Venue. Senior Citizens Rooms. 895-901 Doncaster Rd Doncaster.

Microscopy workshop.
Bee anatomy and honey testing.
Saturday 1st October 2016.
Venue. Community Rooms 33 Saxon St Brunswick.

Queen breeding.
Workshop and practical training on raising queens.
5-6th November 2016.
Venue. Community Rooms Saxon St Brunswick.

We will also be conducting a Nuc building and swarm collection course after winter.

Keep an eye on the website for a series of beginner and intermediate beekeeping courses to start early spring.

The Beekeepers Club Inc, Junior Section.

"Siteworks" 33 Saxton St Brunswick

20th August 9.30pm.

Biology of the bee and colony behaviour.

The Beekeepers Club Inc, invites you to our club meeting on August 18th 2016.

Mr Trevor Weatherhead, Executive Director, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) and a member of the Government Biosecurity Council will be speaking on the recent Varroa *jacobsoni* discovery in Townsville, the implications for our industry, and steps being undertaken to control the incursion.

Trevor is directly involved in the Varroa program through both AHBIC and as a member of the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant & Pests (CCEPP). He will offer a no frills explanation of the threat now facing all beekeepers and how the issue is being addressed.

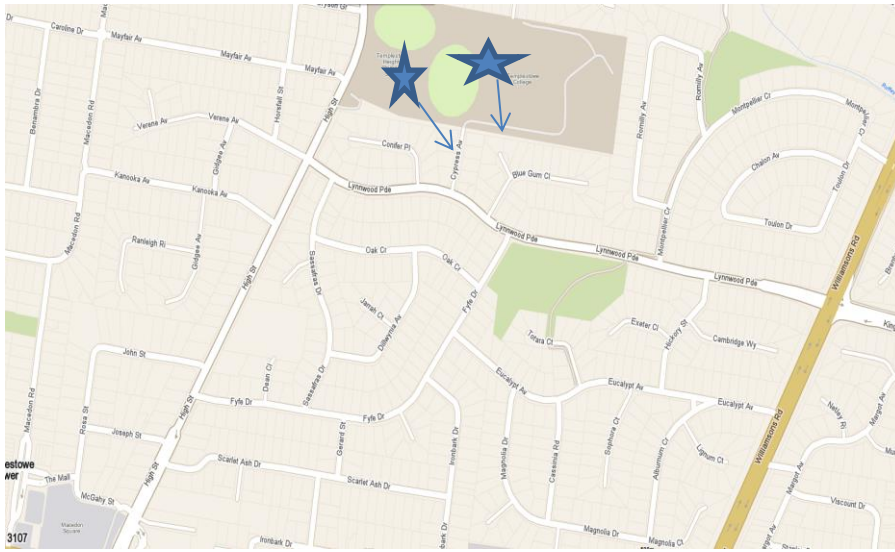
In addition we will hear about the work of AHBIC and how hobbyists can be involved. For years there has been discussion that amateur beekeepers are not included in many industry forums this is now our chance to initiate some change.

This meeting is also important for our information as we are fast approaching the almond pollination season with colonies being shipped from Queensland, thereby putting Victoria into the front line of possible disease incursion.

The meeting will take place at the Performing Arts Centre, Templestowe College, Cypress Ave Templestowe. 7.00pm for 7.30 pm start.

Please bring your club name tag to enable electronic admission.

August 18th Meeting venue location.



Templestowe College. Enter Cypress Ave from Lynnwood Pde. Car parking opposite school Reception entrance. Lynnwood Pde runs between High St and Williamsons Rd and becomes King St which then continues to Blackburn Rd.

We will have a person at the car park to direct you to the venue.

This is an extremely important forum, and our club has taken the lead to inform the industry of the current Varroa situation. Invitations to attend have been sent to all Melbourne metro and country bee clubs. A large attendance is expected and it will be a great opportunity for us to meet other beekeepers and industry leaders to discuss our area of interest, and form closer alliances.

It has been heartening to see so many new and old members renew their subscription. I remind any member who has not yet paid their subs that it can be done online, or in person at the August meeting. We accept electronic banking transfer, cheque and or cash. See Yvonne at the door.

JUNIOR CLUB

After many months I am very pleased to announce that our first Junior Club meeting will be held on Saturday20th August at the Siteworks Community Centre and Gardens, 33 Saxton Street Brunswick.

The Leader of the Club and Facilitator is Vanessa Kwiatkowski. I thank Vanessa for taking this important role. The course is based on input from Vanessa and elements of the SBA Young Beekeepers Association Scotland. We still require at least 3 more members to volunteer for a roster to assist Vanessa.

If at any weekend you can lend a hand please contact Vanessa at 0414 406 136 or myself 0404 38 1942 or email president@beekeepers.org.au.

We have 2 hives including a Flow hive on site which the junior members will maintain.

The club will be conducting a Fundamentals of Beekeeping course for beginners over 3 weeks starting 22nd Sept, 29th Sept and 6th October followed by a practical hands on day.
The classes will be held at the Senior Citizens Rooms 895 Doncaster Rd Doncaster in the Craft Room. Staring 7.30pm.
Further details can be seen on the website or contact Andrew Wootton Secretary @ beekeepers.org.au

MAKING MEAD.

Got all of your equipment cleaned and correctly stored for winter, read all the bee books and find yourself with no bee chores and still with some weeks to go before you need to work your hives, then try making some mead.

This is a fairly easy recipe to follow and should produce good results.

Ingredients:

1.6 kg Honey
1 orange, unpeeled, thoroughly washed and roughly chopped
1 tbsp. raisins
1 cinnamon stick
½ tsp yeast
½ tsp yeast nutrient
4.5 litres water
Pinch of nutmeg (optional)
Pinch of allspice (optional)

Equipment:
1 x 5lt demijohn.

Method.

Dissolve honey in 500 ml warm water and transfer to clean demijohn. Add raisins and cinnamon, and as required, the optional spices and fill with remaining 4 lt of water. Make sure you leave some room at the top of the demijohn for the foam that will form when the yeast starts to activate.

2. Insert the top into the demijohn, securely and shake the demijohn to oxygenate the mixture. This will get the yeast working.

3. Set the mead aside, and when it has reached room temperature add the ½ tsp of yeast.

4. Install the airlock into the demijohn, and half fill it with clean water. Transfer to a cool area with plenty of shade. The mead will start to activate and create a foam on the top over the next 12 hours. Leave to activate for 4-8 weeks in a cool dark and shaded area.

5. When the foaming has ceased, use a sanitised hose to transfer the mead from the demijohn into another sanitised vessel, leaving the slurry behind.

6. The mead should be dry. The alcohol content depends on the amount of honey used and the activation of the yeast. As a general rule of thumb you can expect approximately 6% alcohol per kilogram of honey in a 5lt batch.

Upcoming events:
We have purchased a microscope and bee anatomy slides and will be conducting a microscopy course later in the year.

The club will also be conducting a Nuc building and swarm collection course after winter.

Keep an eye on the website for a series of beginner and intermediate beekeeping courses to start early spring.

Procedure for AFB affected bee colonies.

Recently a club member received his Gribbles American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) honey culture test (HCT) report back with a reading of 1.1 cfu (colony forming units – i.e AFB bacterial spore count within honey sample). In consultation with a DEDJTR Apiary Officer the beekeeper was informed of his options in dealing with his colony that returned a positive AFB HCT result. The beekeeper was also concerned that if he was required to destroy the hive by burning the materials in his backyard this would present a problem with his local Council, however, this latter matter was resolved the after a number of phone calls.

To clarify to members should such an event occur again, I have outlined below information for the correct interpretation of a positive AFB HCT result and what action the beekeeper should take However, importantly, before providing this further information it must be noted that honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) are classed as livestock under the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994. As such, AFB is a notifiable disease, meaning that a beekeeper is required to notify a DEDJTR Apiary Officer if they have, or suspect they have, detected AFB in their colony /colonies. A positive AFB honey culture test HCT or positive AFB larval smear is considered to be notification as a DEDJTR Apiary Officer will directly receive a copy of this positive AFB result from Gribbles.

So, for the correct interpretation (and follow-up beekeeper action) I have provided the below figures regarding HCT spore counts and the corresponding likelihood (%) of having visual symptoms of AFB in a colony. The spore count of 1 should be regarded as a low reading and would not require destruction of the hive at this stage. However, a spore count of 1 should signal a potential red flag, a warning that AFB bacterial spores may be present within that colony / apiary, triggering the beekeeper to be on

watch. In other words, be vigilant with future regular brood inspections in that colony /apiary.

Spore count (cfu)	% chance of having visual symptoms of AFB	
+1	56	
+2	80	
+3	100	destroy hive stage

It's very important for beekeepers to be aware that it's their responsibility to make their final decision regarding the fate of the colony based on actual visual AFB field symptoms of brood within their colony /apiary. If the beekeeper is unable to correctly diagnose AFB brood symptoms the beekeeper should seek advice from a DEDJTR Apiary Officer or a Club member who is competent with disease diagnosis.

If the hive has to be destroyed the correct method is:

1. Euthanize the bees. (petrol or chemical spray)
2. Options for disinfection of infected hive materials:
    a. Burn all hive components bottom board, supers, frames and lid. If your council will not allow burning insitu, you are allowed to wrap the components in a heavy duty plastic waste bag, tape joints to make airtight. Re wrap in a 2nd bag again taping joints and the parcels can be taken to a deep bury rubbish tip or Recycle depot that takes contaminated materials. Most local councils will accept but a quick phone call beforehand would be advisable.
    b. Disinfection by gamma-irradiation (available through Steritech Dandenong)
3. Hand tools, gloves and clothing should also be wrapped and disinfected as per point 2a or b.

As with most pest and diseases that affect honey bees I often say *know your enemy well,* if you are more informed, particularly regarding pest and disease reproduction lifecycles you will be more prepared to proactively

managed pest and disease issues that may affect you or your neighbour beekeeper. Below is some interesting additional information regarding AFB.

Briefly American foul brood (AFB) begins in honey bee larvae after they swallow AFB spores with their food. Within 24-48 hours, the spores germinate in the gut of the larva and develop into vegetative 'rods'. The rods grow and invade the haemolymph and body tissues, killing the infected larva before pupation, usually immediately after the brood cell is capped.

If a bee larvae less than 24 hours old is fed 6 to 10 AFB spores in its food by nurse bees this then may cause the larvae to be infected and die from AFB. The bacteria will multiply, producing approximately 2.6 billion spores in each dead individual. The action of the house bees in cleaning up the diseased brood will lead to more young larvae being infected.

The final stage of the bacterium's lifecycle is reached when the vegetative rods form into spores. Approximately 2,500 million spores may occur in the remains of a single infected honey bee larva.

Lastly, it's very important to register with the Department as a beekeeper. In fact it's a legal requirement under the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994, and it's free for beekeepers who have 5 hives or less! As a registered beekeeper a scheme for financial compensation is available for hive loss from AFB if you, as the registered beekeeper, have notified a DEDJTR Apiary Officer of this serious disease.

Acknowledgement and thanks to Daniel Martin Senior Apiary Officer DEDJTR Bendigo, for co authorship and advice for this article.

Australian Trees a boom for Israel's honey industry.

Australian eucalyptus trees have come to the rescue of Israel's bees…and reversed the dwindling production of honey.

There are over 450 beekeepers in Israel, producing 3,600 tons of honey annually. They faced the problem of dwindling production as the majority of Israel's plants bloom once a year only on the spring creating a dilemma solved only by feeding the bees sugar solutions or transporting them to other parts of the country…both dangerous and expensive alternatives.

12 years ago, the Jewish National Fund responded to a joint initiative between the Israel Honey Board and Dr Dan Aizikovich a professor at Tel Aviv University by introducing a variety of species of eucalyptus trees from Australia. Experimental trials produced species which were both suitable for Israel's harsh climate and highly productive in nectar-producing blooms.

Two years later, David Brand, chief forester and head of the forest department at KKL-JNF found species which would bloom in Israel and produce the right nectar for Israel's hungry bees.

So far, more than 100,000 trees have been distributed to beekeepers in Israel; and neighbouring Jordan is now embracing the project.

Israel's beekeepers are over the moon. The trees produce copious shade enabling them to leave their hives close to the blooming trees and avoiding the expensive necessity of transporting them to follow the pattern of Israel's native blooming plants.