Beelines

Newsletter of The Beekeepers Club Inc. Est 1998.

October 2015.

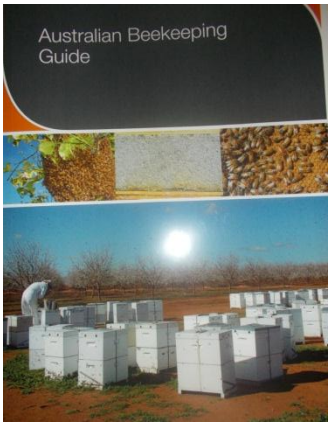
Mission statement:
To enhance the learning and better practices of the art of beekeeping within our community.

The next generation of Doncaster beekeepers. Hive opening day 6th Sept 2015

Meeting venue; Senior Citizens Club. 895-901 Doncaster Road Doncaster East. Melway 47k-1. Opposite Dan Murphy's.
Meetings held 3rd Thursday of each month 7.00pm for 7.30pm.
Guests and Visitors are Welcome
Enquiries and information: editor@beekeepers,org.au

Next Meeting.

15th Oct 7.30 pm Paul Davies. Beginners Corner / Swarm control
8.15pm Electronic Beekeeping. Andrew Wotton



Additional copies of the Australian Beekeeping Guide have been purchased by the club and are now available.
Recently published by Russell Goodman and Peter Kaczynski the book is available at the club price of $ 32.00 (RRP $34.50). Copies are limited so if you intend buying this excellent guide then see Anne or Marie at the sales table near the kitchen October meeting, or email me at editor@beekeepers.org.au to reserve a copy.

The book of 125 pages, is ideally suited to both beginners and the more experienced and covers all aspects of beekeeping from the biology of the bee, hive components, handling bees safely, spring and summer management, honey extraction, flora types and many other topics. An excellent reference book.

Gloves:

The club has both large and extra-large size gloves for sale at $ 13.50. See Anne or Marie at the sales table near the kitchen.


Large.


Extra- large.

There are currently a large number of library books overdue, if you have taken a book or two, and forgotten to return please check and bring back any overdue books to the October meeting. There is always a great demand on the books and it would be appreciated if they were returned after 30 days.

If you have any queries or you need to discuss your overdue book speak to Helmut at the October meeting.

All members are reminded that even though you have paid your subs direct into the bank you also need to fill out an application form and hand to Paul Pynaker. This ensures you are registered and on the mail list for all club correspondence. So if you have not filled out a 2015/2016 membership form when you paid please do so at the next meeting.

Access of bees to honey.

It is quite alright to feed bees honey that they have stored in their own hives. However it is illegal to allow bees access to honey that is outside the hive. This includes honey that is in or on comb, wax capping's, wax scrapes and hive components. With the ever increasing threats of disease please be conscious of good practice when working your apiary.

The revised apiary code states that beekeepers should number their hives, e.g., #1, 2, etc. and then number the frames from each hive with hive number and then frame numbers 1-8 if an 8 frame box. The idea is to maintain that frames from one hive remain solely for use in that particular hive.

The last meeting was the AGM and chaired very capably by Sue Zuber. The minutes of the last AGM were passed with minimal discussion.

The elections for 2015/2016 were held and the following candidates were successful.

President	Don Muir
Vice President	Mat Lumalasi
Secretary	Andrew Wootton
Treasurer	Paul Pynaker
Committee	Paul Davies
Committee	Marie de Lima
Committee	Anne Reeves
Committee	Aris Petratos
Committee	Helmut Huber

Thanks go to all those candidates who nominated for the various positions.

Two resolutions were presented to the meeting for discussion and voting.

The first was proposed by Don Muir which proposed a limit on the number of committee positions to 4 during discussion this was amended to 5. Result resolution was passed.

The second resolution by Mat Lumalasi was for the club to accept alternative payments via systems such as Paypal. Result resolution failed.

Thank you to Sue Zuber who so ably chaired the meeting and also to Geoff Bryan who also capably acted behind the scenes as our ballot returning officer, and to Joe Ng who did the vote counting, many thanks to all for a great effort..

Editorial.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing President Geoff Neville and outgoing Vice President Ian Brown.

As incoming President I want it known that both these past office bearers have left the club in an excellent position.

Geoff Neville is a founding club member and over 17 years has put an extraordinary amount of effort into the club, much of it behind the scenes and done quietly, so many things he has done are unsung and in some cases just taken for granted by most of us as " just happening" . We all owe Geoff a great vote of thanks and respect for what he has done. I trust that he can now enjoy life a little easier and come along to a club meeting and enjoy the time.

Geoff is a life member of the club.

However, knowing Geoff I suspect he will still put into the club a 110% effort and not be backward in telling the new committee what he thinks.

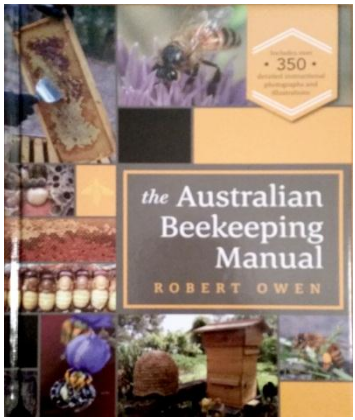
Ian Brown, what can I say about Ian that members don't already know? Ian has for many years been our main teaching leader. A past president, vice president, and life member, Ian has contributed more than anyone else in training our members and indeed many other beekeepers. With over 70 years of beekeeping experience this club is absolutely unique in having so much information stored in one person, Ian has to be our club treasure.

It is my hope and intention that Ian still be actively engaged in our educational programs, and I am still trying to convince him to commit to a series of club produced data sheets. Although after so many years of active duty I know Ian does deserve some time off, but I hope just not yet.

In addition to the teaching aspect Ian has also had a great influence in the committee and overall running of this club.

Again, as in the case of Geoff, Ian deserves the total respect of all members for his contribution to the club.

There is no doubt in my mind the incoming committee of management have very big shoes to fill with the retirement of these two members.



Bob Owens new book is now published and available for sale.

The book is aimed at both the novice and experienced beekeeper in Australia and explains in detail the steps required to manage colonies of bees. Supported by over 350 photographs and drawings, each action to be performed is explained in detail with photographs showing the steps as well as the final result. Many potential beekeepers are unclear about the equipment they need to buy and how to obtain their first colony of bees. The first chapters in the book explain in detail the equipment needed as well as equipment that may be useful later on as their confidence and experience grows. The chapter 'Your First Bees' explains how to obtain bees, where to locate them in the garden, and the basics of colony management. In addition to chapters on keeping bees, there are detailed chapters on the life cycle of the honey bee, extracting honey, the bee-friendly garden, and entering honey in competitions, native bees and rearing queens. The result is a comprehensive manual that includes material not available in other Australian, North American or European books and is the ultimate Australian reference source.

The book retails for $ 49.00.

Swarming is the way bee colonies reproduce.

A swarm on average will comprise approximately half the adult bees and usually the old queen.

A swarm will in most cases leave the hive and will temporarily cluster on a nearby shrub, tree or other structure generally within 200 metres from the parent hive. Lose a swarm and you lose about half your field gathering force. Therefore, prevention is a necessary part of good beekeeping management.

The swarm instinct is usually strongest in spring and early summer.

After a colony has swarmed carefully examine all the combs that the queen has had access to and destroy all but two of the largest queen cells seen. This ensures that the colony will have the best possible replacement queen. Leave two cells just in case one is defective.

Queen cells.

Signs of swarming.

- Queen cells under construction, usually these are on the lower and side edges of combs.
- Queen cups under construction. Their presence does not necessarily indicate imminent swarming; however swarming will soon occur if cups contain eggs or larvae.

In addition to the above, signs will usually be accompanied by lack of comb space for brood rearing and a high worker and drone population.

The presence of capped queen cells and removal of wax from the tip of queen cells exposing the cocoon are sure signs that swarming will occur very soon, almost immediately.

Reduce the impulse to swarm. Some methods may reduce or delay swarming for a while, but eventually more drastic action such as division of colonies will be necessary.

Minimise the number of drones.

A large number of drones in a hive can be a strong inducement to swarm. Remove brood foundation and replace with full sheets of comb foundation and comb with worker cells in the brood box. Remove comb with large patches of brood, destroy or at least place in honey supers above the queen excluder.

Destroy queen cells.

Replace queens.

Young vigorous queens play a major role in reducing swarming. It is ideal to requeen in early spring.

Lastly reduce congestion in the hive, this can be done by taking combs of sealed brood and give them to weaker colonies.

Capilano day trip.

The club is organizing a trip to visit the newly re-opened Capilano packing plant at Maryborough.

Capilano Australia's largest honey packer and supplier is a publicly listed Australian company. They have recently acquired Chandlers Honey and this has necessitated the re commissioning of the Maryborough plant.

The date of the visit will be October 17th. 2015.

Travel will be by Jaytee Coaches who we have used on previous trips and the bus will leave from Doncaster at 8.00am arriving Maryborough approx. 11.00am. Entertainment will be provided on the bus.

The factory tour will last about 2 -2½ hours after which we will go to the Maryborough Golf club for lunch, before heading home hopefully arriving about 5.30pm.

The cost will be $ 20.00 per head including bus travel and lunch.

Passenger numbers will be limited to 57 so if intending to go please fill in your registration form on the club website and email back to editor@beekeepers.org.au.

"...every spoon of honey contains TINY quantities of these floral flavonoids...usually referred to as antioxidants. There are at least 16 of them found in honey at last count...Trace amounts of these floral flavones exert POWERFUL influences."
~The Honey Revolution,

Use of a smoker.

Smoke is the only language bees know. When smoked bees tend to gorge honey, including the guard bees. Once they have filled their honey stomachs they become easier to handle.

The amount of smoke needed to subdue bees will vary according to their temperament, weather conditions and availability of nectar and pollen. Hives in the shade will generally require more smoke than those in sunlight.

Too much smoke will unduly distress or excite the bees, too little will mean you will have less control over the bees and this may cause a beginner to have less confidence.
Only practice will tell you how much you will need for each of your hives.

Never use your smoker on a day of total fire ban, unless you have first obtained permission from CFA.

Like nicotine for humans, certain pesticides seem to hold an addictive attraction for bees, which seek out tainted food even if it may be bad for them, according to new research.

Not only did bees show no signs of avoiding neonicotinoid-laced food in lab tests, they seemed to prefer it, says a study in the journal *Nature*.

Australian bee body waits for local study before acting on neonicotinoid insecticides

Bees could be getting a neurological reward when they consume small doses of neonicotinoid insecticides.

The Australian bee industry says it wants more information about the effects of neonicotinoid insecticides on bees before it forms a policy position on their use.

Recently, scientists at the University of Newcastle set out to determine whether bees could taste or detect the controversial insect killers.

The results of their study, published in the journal Nature, found that they were unable to, and that if they did consume sugar syrup laced with neonicotinoids, then they actually ate more than they normally would.

Lead researcher, professor of neuroscience Geraldine Wright, says the result surprised the team.

"What we found was that either they didn't avoid the stuff or that instead they were attracted to drink more of the solution that contained the pesticide," she said.

The low doses offered to the bees in the study were similar to those found in plants that are grown from seeds coated in neonicotinoids, a common practice in Australian agriculture, especially when sowing canola.

Another study published in Nature at the same time found wild bee populations were more damaged by these low doses of neonicotinoids than honeybees, which might only be exposed for short amounts of time.

"These low doses that wind up in pollen and nectar of seed treated canola affects wild bees more than they affect honeybees, so the amount that is present in pollen and nectar and its effect on bee species could depend on the species that actually collect the pollen," Professor Wright said.

But there is no consensus among Australian beekeepers about whether or not these low doses are toxic to working bees, according to Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) executive director Trevor Weatherhead.

It is why the AHBIC has commissioned research into the topic, which is being conducted in the field rather than under laboratory conditions.

"Some believe they have an effect on their bees and others don't and there has not been any trial work to demonstrate that," Mr Weatherhead said.

"That is why the importance of this trial from WA, where we have had bees put on seed-coated canola plants.

"Hopefully we will get some definitive answers out of that particular research, because to date it has only been anecdotal evidence."

Mr Weatherhead says the AHBIC will, with the Federal Government and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, form a policy on neonicotinoids and bee safety once the results are available.

Source ABC

The pollination services of bees are worth around US $220 billion globally

Honey bees have 170 odorant receptors, compared with only 62 in fruit flies and 79 in mosquitoes. Their exceptional olfactory abilities include kin recognition signals, social communication within the hive, and odour recognition for finding food. Their sense of smell is so precise that it could differentiate hundreds of different floral varieties and tell whether a flower carried pollen or nectar from metres away.

For those who don't know we now have a renowned author in our midst. Congratulations have to go to Bob Owen who has been advised by his publishers that book sales in Australia alone have now topped 1000 copies in just 4 weeks and is within close reach already of being the most popular and biggest selling bee reference book in Southern Hemisphere. well done Bob.

In last month's edition I placed an advertisement for mentors I am pleased to say that I had good response and the appropriate contacts have been made. Thanks to those who have offered to share their knowledge with new members.

BUT:------- I now have to ask for another favour!

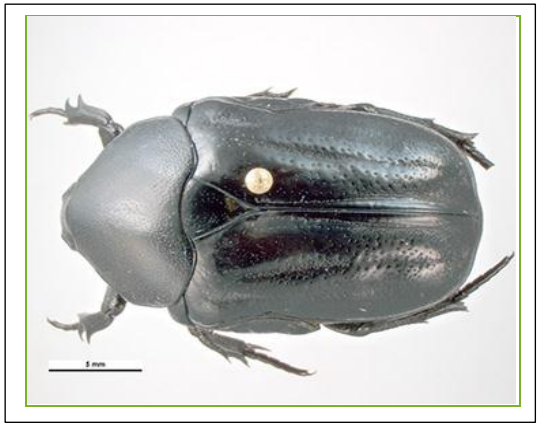
We get asked from time to time to go to a school, kindergarten or other group to talk about bees and their life cycle.

Do we have any members who would be willing to put their names on a list that we could draw from to assist these groups in understanding more about bees and satisfy their requests.

Large African Hive Beetles - heading our way?

The potentially devastating Large African Hive Beetles are the latest bee pests in the spotlight, as the industry continues efforts to identify threats and prepare for their potential arrival in Australia.

A significant number of large scarab beetle species in South Africa eat bee brood, in attacks which are usually fast and lethal to the colonies, in areas with a similar climate to favoured beekeeping regions in Australia.



The University of Sydney is looking into the lifecycle of the beetles in a study supported by the Honey Bee and Pollination Program, a jointly funded partnership with the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (HIA) and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture.

Chair of the Program's Advisory Panel, Michael Hornitzky, said Australian beekeepers were fortunate the country's isolation helped keep out exotic pests, but warned vigilance was needed.

"It's important to continually increase our knowledge of potential threats to reduce the probability they will be introduced, and provide the best chance of detection and eradication if they do arrive," Dr Hornitzky said.

"Researchers will visit South Africa to determine which of the Large African Hive Beetles are causing the most problems and talk to the best beekeepers about managing them.

"Understanding their lifecycle and habitat will allow us to develop

LARGE AFRICAN HIVE BEETLE cont'd from page 14

quarantine rules to help prevent material being imported which may harbour larvae or pupae."

If Large African Hive Beetles became endemic in Australia, the potential impacts would be substantial, including initial restrictions on hive movements, the need for beetle exclusion devices to be fitted to all hives, and significant colony losses in the early stages.

The key outcomes of the project will include a better understanding of the climatic conditions which suit the beetles, detailed photos of all stages of their lifecycles, and the development of a fact sheet to help their identification and management should they be introduced into Australia.

The Large hive beetle (*Oplostomus fuligineus*) is around 20–23mm long with a shining black body and is an insect pest of honey bee brood that is native to regions of Africa. Another closely related species, *Oplostomus haroldi* has also been observed as a pest of honey bee brood, and less commonly honey and pollen, in honey bee colonies in regions of Africa.

There also seems to be a strong preference with the large hive beetle for eating honey bee brood, instead of other hive food sources, such as honey and pollen. Considering the large nature of the insect, and its ability to quickly consume brood, this feeding behaviour can quickly destroy the comb structure within the hive. Considering its greater size than the honey bee, it appears that beekeepers in Africa use smaller entrances for the hives, which restricts the access of the beetles into the hives, thus controlling the pest

Acknowledgement to: Rural Industries and Honey Bee Pollination program.

If you see any suspicious or unrecognizable pest contact the

The next beekeeping course to be run by the club will commence on Thursday 29th Oct and continue over 3 nights being 29th October, 5th November and 12th November and conclude with a hands on day on a Saturday and/or Sunday to suit your schedule.

The cost will be $ 130.00 per person and includes reference manual and note book.

The location will be the Senior Citizens club rooms 895-901 Doncaster Rd Doncaster. Time 7.30 - 10.00pm. To enrol see Andrew Wotton or Don Muir.

Up until only a few years ago, it was thought by many scientists that Honey bee hives were kept warm by pupae in the brood and that the bees would often congregate there to warm themselves up from the pupae. Recently, this was found not to be the case when a new Honey bee job was discovered that of "heater bees." Bees of almost all ages can perform this function by either vibrating their abdomens or they can also decouple their wings from their muscles, allowing them to vigorously use these muscles without actually moving their wings. This can heat their bodies up to about 111° Fahrenheit (44° C), which is about 16° F (9° C) hotter than their normal body temperature.

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