

# BEELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC. EST. 1998

Enhancing the learning and better practices of the art of beekeeping within our community

JULY 2017



Annual Competition 2017 - Photo section - First prize Amanda Lamont

Next Club Meeting: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July,  
7 pm for 7.30 pm start

## **Preparing for Spring**

Venue: Performing Arts Centre (PAC)  
Doncaster Secondary College  
123 Church Rd Doncaster  
Melway 33 G 12

Enquiries: [editor@beekeepers.org.au](mailto:editor@beekeepers.org.au)

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The **AGM** will be held next month and if you are considering offering your help please see Andrew or myself and consider a committee position.

I will not be seeking re-election as president and will not be standing for any committee position for 2017-2018. My decision has been conveyed to the committee. This club will always be my 'home' club and I will be attending meetings as often as I can and have strongly indicated my willingness and desire to assist the club in every way I can. This decision has been made on the basis of my becoming more involved in a national role within the industry. I believe this new position can, in part, give greater representation for hobbyist and amateur beekeepers, as well as my being able to contribute back in some small way to the industry in general. I intend to remain the co-coordinator of the member's insurance scheme and conduct the monthly juniors meetings.

I believe that my resignation comes at the right time for the club. When the new committee took over we sat down and drew up a list of what we thought we needed to do as a club and then prioritised those actions in an effort to build the club into the best we could. I am most pleased to say that we specifically:

- Implemented a modern, easy to use, club software package
- Improved and maintained good management governance
- Consolidated and strengthened club finances
- Increased and retained membership
- Upgraded teaching and training courses
- Introduced mentoring sessions
- Published up-to-date relevant course text books
- Invested in teaching aids
- Accommodated Flow Hive beekeeping members
- Implemented a members' public liability insurance scheme
- Created a Junior beekeeping section to encourage young people into the art of beekeeping
- Secured a comfortable meeting facility with good audio visual equipment, seating and safe secure car parking
- Developed a club apiary
- Developed comradery and fellowship in the club for all members to enjoy beekeeping

We have gained an enviable reputation within the beekeeping club arena, government and industry organizations and are recognized as the premier hobbyist club in Victoria.

I have to offer a huge vote of thanks to the committee of whom each and every one has made input into the club management. It has been a great committee to work with. I believe that if this committee is given the opportunity to continue at the next AGM, the club will be in good hands. I welcome Lyndon Joss, Julie Wiltshire and Stuart Stone to the committee and already we can see the effect and input these people will bring to the club.

Lastly, this will also be my last edition of Beelines. After some 50 odd editions, I will pass onto some other poor unsuspecting soul to take over. I have enjoyed the position of editor and I firmly believe it has made me a much better beekeeper. Through research of articles I have learnt a lot more than I might have. Not to say I have always put into practice everything I have preached, but it has given me a great understanding of beekeeping and enhanced my love for our little friends.

Happy beekeeping.

DON MUIR

## CLUB APIARY SITE

The committee has secured a dedicated apiary site at 1 Burgundy St Heidelberg, just behind St Johns Anglican Church, and annexed to the St John Community Gardens.

On the site are good equipment storage facilities, excellent accommodation for training courses and for those old beekeepers, who need their afternoon tea, there are kitchen facilities.

To Cr Peter Castaldo from Banyule Council, who made the introduction, and Katrina Philips from the Parish, who facilitated the outcome, many thanks to you both for enabling this important club venture. We look forward to a long and mutually rewarding association.

Hopefully this will continue with Peter, which may enable us to site some hives on the proposed new council building and give us more community engagement.

More news to be provided soon as to when the apiary will be set up.

## AGM

The AGM will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

As we all know it takes a lot to keep the club running. We always are in need of helping hands, so if you consider you have a skill set that can benefit the club please consider standing for the committee, or offering your assistance in an ex-officio way on the number of subcommittees that will be set up.

For further details contact Don, Andrew or Mat, or email [Secretary@beekeepers.org.au](mailto:Secretary@beekeepers.org.au)



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & INSURANCE

Invoices for the 2017/2018 year have been sent to members, It has been a great response by members in paying their subs and although not due until 31<sup>st</sup> July over half our members have already paid in the first 2 weeks. All existing members are urged to re-join for next year. It is only through maintaining a steady member base of existing numbers that gives us the income to reinvest in the club and ultimately your beekeeping enjoyment.

Your membership is important: it keeps you up to date with industry developments via the website and Beelines. Sometimes it can be difficult to make Thursday meetings every month but try and get to a few meetings to keep in touch. With the ever present bio-security threats now upon our industry, it is more important than ever to be informed and involved.

Our public liability insurance scheme policy renewal has been paid by the club. There is no capacity to offer insurance only to members who have resigned or for some reason relinquished their membership.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Members are only covered for 2017/2018 once their annual subscription has been paid in full.** Unfortunately, no cover can be given until the 2017/2018 subscription has been paid.

So to ensure you continue to have \$20,000,000.00 public liability insurance for your beekeeping activities please ensure you pay your annual subscription.

This is a great initiative by the club so please support it by renewing your membership.

The Certificate of Currency for the coming year will be sent to each paid member early August, but be advised that you are fully covered from the date we receive your subscription.

## JUNIORS' NEWS

I am pleased to advise that after our first year of operation, The Moreland City Council has offered to assist the club in publicising this junior activity and is supporting us in advanced marketing and publicity which I am sure will contribute to its growth and ultimately bring more young people into the industry. Senior council officers have indicated that they see this activity as a worthwhile and great program for local kids and have also suggested we may be eligible for a council grant to assist us. I will follow this outlet up and advise in due course, but even if we do not get a grant I thank the Council for their support and assistance.

## UPCOMING TRAINING & COURSES

JULY	Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WINTER WORKSHOP</b> <b>Improving your beekeeping</b> 9.30 am – 4.30 pm, Siteworks 33 Saxon St Brunswick
SEP	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BEGINNERS COURSE</b> <b>Fundamentals of Beekeeping (Session 1 of 4)</b> 7.30 pm, Senior Citizens Rooms, Doncaster Session 2: 13 <sup>th</sup> September 7:30 pm, Doncaster Session 3: 20 <sup>th</sup> September 7:30 pm, Doncaster Session 4: Date TBC, Hive opening, Brunswick

See web site for all details

## MINIMAL INTERVENTION



Studies have shown that Small hive beetle can smell a honeybee colony's distress pheromones from an astounding 10 km away and they come running (or flying, actually) to make the most of that disruption.

Stressed hives are perfect for small hive beetle to invade – the bees are dealing with other issues, the laying / filling of the comb may be out of whack, so the patrolling of the comb may be not ideal, and it's the perfect opportunity for the beetle to lay where they won't be annoyed.

Every time a hive is opened from the top, the nest scent is released and, if the bees are stressed or sick, this means a huge release of stress pheromones – out of the hive entrance and into the air.

An ideal hive opening would be mid-morning on a calm day, with an air temperature of 27°C or thereabouts. Yes, things aren't always perfect, but the more thought you can put into your hive openings, the better for the bees, and their hive health.



Voting underway for photos

# 2017 ANNUAL COMPETITION

The annual competition was outstandingly successful. This year saw a slight increase in honey exhibits and for the first time included a number of new sections: mead, liqueurs, wax modelling and honey based cooking

items. For a first time the entry levels were very encouraging and there is certainly scope to enlarge and develop these additional categories.



Honey being inspected for clarity using the polariscope



Cooking entries

A sincere thanks to all members who participated in this competition to make it

a success. Based on the entry quality and quantity this annual event looks like going from strength to strength.

Category	ANNUAL COMPETITION RESULTS		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Light Honey	James Gibbons	John Treloar	Bec McBride
Medium Honey	John Treloar	Dianna Kefaloukos	Lyndon Joss
Dark Honey	Bec McBride	John Treloar	Dianna Kefaloukos
Creamed Honey	Bec McBride	Sue Zuber	n/a
Wax/Candles/ Sculptures	Helmut Huber	John Treloar	Sue Zuber
Liqueurs / Meads	Bec McBride	John Treloar	Andrew Wootton
Baked Section	Vyvian Hiron (Swiss Roll)	Janet Muir (Bee Sting cake)	Sue Zuber (biscuits)
Photography	Amanda Lamont	Di Exell	Equal placings Amanda Lamont Jill Rao

# BIOSECURITY CODE OF PRACTICE

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of practice (the code) has been developed in consultation with beekeepers and governments to provide a clear framework for beekeepers to engage in best practice biosecurity. As you may be aware, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code) is now legislated within the Victorian Livestock Disease Control Act (LDCA) 1994. It is now mandatory for all Victorian beekeepers to comply with the Code. The Code will soon come into effect nationally. A very important requirement of the Code is that all beekeepers maintain records of biosecurity-related actions and observations.

*Even if you only have 1 hive in your backyard the code is as important to you as it is to a beekeeper with 1000 hives. So all members need to have a copy, read and implement those areas relevant to conform.*

I precis out the code mandatory requirements for those with less than 50 hives.

- The code aims to increase productivity in the Australian honey bee industry by improving the general level of pest and disease control
- To assist beekeepers in recognising exotic pests and diseases of bees and to prepare for an exotic or emerging disease response.
- To ensure beekeepers conduct regular surveillance for the presence of notifiable exotic and endemic pests and diseases.
- Assist in the management of significant endemic diseases particularly American foulbrood (AFB).
- Facilitate cross border movement of bees through adoption of a single national code for biosecurity practices.

To ensure the future viability and sustainability of the Australian honey bee industry. The code is based on the principles of good biosecurity.

In the context of beekeeping, biosecurity can be defined as a set of preventive measures designed to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of pests or diseases in bees, and the principles of good beekeeping biosecurity describe the actions a beekeeper should take to minimise the impact of pests and diseases on their bees and the bees of other beekeepers.

Some basic things to do first:

- Training and planning.
- Study or do a course or the online test in disease and pests prevention at The Biosecurity for Beekeepers Course on the Honey Bee Biosecurity Online Training (BOLT) site <https://honeybee.canopihr.com.au>.

*Reduce exposure of bees to pests and disease.*

That is, amongst other things, maintain strong bee colonies to prevent robbing of hives. Bees, feed and equipment should only be obtained from a reliable source. Introduced bees should be quarantined and tested to ensure freedom from disease. Second hand equipment should be sterilised before use.

Requirements under the code:

- Where law requires a beekeeper must register with the relevant state authority
- You must provide an accurate count of the number of hives under your control
- You must report the detection or suspicion of any notifiable disease to the relevant state authority.
- You must have a knowledge of the pests and diseases that are notifiable
- You must examine each hive visually inspect for general hive strength and presence of pests and disease
- Inspections must be carried out in a manner that will enable likely detection involving at least inspection of the equivalent of 3 full depth frames of brood after shaking off adult bees.
- Inspect as often as necessary to minimise inter hive spread of disease or pests
- OR, in any case at least twice (2) every year at a minimum of 4 consecutive calendar months apart
- In at least 2 inspections per year at a minimum of 4 months apart at least one (1) hive in each apiary must be examined for the presence of arthropod pests, including Varroa and Tropilaelaps mites using one of the following;
- Sugar shake or alcohol wash or drone uncapping
- Any weak hive must be managed to ensure it does not become attractive to robber bees
- Any dead hive or a hive with insufficient bees to prevent robbing by other bees must be removed from the apiary or managed in a way that prevents robbing and renders the hive and any honey leakage impervious to robber bees;
- By way of destruction of all bees in the hive and rendering hive and appliances bee proof until they are cleaned, sterilised or destroyed as appropriate
- A beekeeper must eliminate AFB from an infected hive by sterilisation or destruction as soon as is reasonable and before sale or reuse of the hive.
- Frames combs and hive mats and any plastic parts must not be dipped in hot wax but must be destroyed by burning or irradiated as appropriate
- A beekeeper cannot keep or use any antibiotic for the purpose of controlling AFB in hives All beekeepers must keep records of apiary inspections
- Details of all actions taken to manage pests and diseases



- Details of sampling methods, dates results of all honey tests or assessments for presence of AFB
- Must keep details of movements of hives, including swarm catch boxes, to include dates, numbers and geographic locations. Details of any introduced bees and used equipment or hive components and the supplier or source
- You must keep records of any biosecurity related training undertaken
- Records can be paper based or electronic
- You must retain records for 3 years
- Hives, swarm boxes etc. must be maintained in good condition to minimise risk of disease spread
- All hives must be maintained in a way that allows combs to be individually and separately removed for inspection
- Your registration number must be legibly marked on all boxes
- You must allow your operation to be assessed if requested.

The **Biosecurity for Beekeepers Course** is now available on the Honey Bee Biosecurity Online Training (BOLT) site <https://honeybee.canopihr.com.au>.

The course was developed collaboratively by AHBIC and Plant Health Australia, and covers:

- why biosecurity is important to beekeepers,
- describes the main pest threats to hives and
- shows how to check hives for any sign of pests that can reduce bee numbers.

It is designed for people with a basic understanding of beekeeping practices already, and all existing beekeepers will find it helpful.

The course can also be accessed from the BeeAware website at <http://beeaware.org.au/training/> and instructions are available on the site.

People who undertake the course will find out how to:

- Check their hives for pests and diseases
- Identify the major pests and diseases of honey bees
- Take action after finding a serious pest or disease in your hive
- Minimise the impact of pests and diseases on your hives

## RESULTS QUICK QUIZ

### How much do you know about Pests and Disease?

1. Which species of Varroa has been found in Australia?  Destructor  
 Jacobsoni
2. Is Tracheal mite notifiable in Victoria?  yes  
 no
3. Can Asian honey bee be kept for honey production?  yes  
 no
4. Is small hive beetle (SHB) a notifiable pest in Victoria?  yes  
 no
5. How many legs does a small hive beetle have?  6 legs  
 8 legs
6. The Black Queen cell virus is an  established pest  
 exotic pest
7. What part of the bee does the Tracheal mite attack?  
 blood  
 nervous system  
 respiratory system
8. What part of the bee does the Braula Fly attack?  
 mouth  
 brood  
 honey
9. Can I leave my frames in the open for the bees to clean?  
 yes  
 no

## DID YOU KNOW THAT?

In space, bees won't fly!

When NASA asked him, Robert Pickard predicted that honeybees taken into space would be unable or unwilling to fly; the gravitational sensors on the head need to be stimulated so that the bee knows which way up it is and which direction to aim for. He was right. From the Herefordshire newsletter 'Buzzword'.

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