

Beelines

Newsletter of The Beekeepers Club Inc. Est 1998.

JULY 2016.

Mission statement:

*To enhance the learning and better practices
of the art of beekeeping within our community.*



1st prize 2016 competition. Photo Gary Bourne

*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.

21st July 2016. 7.30pm Beginners corner.
8.20pm AGM.
Followed by Extended supper and social.

Upcoming Events.

Making and using hive scales and electronic beekeeping.

Facilitator. Andrew Wootton. 20th August 2016 (date to be confirmed)

Venue. 6 Veer Street West Heidelberg (Roof Top Honey).

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.

Varroa jacobsoni found in Townsville reported on 6th July 2016.

An Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) hive has been found at the Port of Townsville, with scientific analysis of the bees confirming that two varroa mites (*Varroa jacobsoni*) were present on two of the bees.

The national Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests, which provides technical and scientific advice in response to exotic plant pest and disease outbreaks, has been convened to discuss required response activities for *Varroa jacobsoni* due to the potential economic impact of an outbreak



A check of the surrounding area has found no further Asian honey bees or their hives and traps, and sentinel hives that are already in place around the port as part of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program have not collected any exotic bees or mite

pests over the past two years.

AUSVEG National Manager – Scientific Affairs Dr Jessica Lye said Australia has well-established arrangements in place for responding to exotic pests such as varroa.

“This is a nationally significant pest that will see all efforts put in place to prevent it from establishing in Australia,” Dr Lye said.

“Professional and amateur bee keepers need to be vigilant in inspecting their hives for signs of varroa mite and other exotic pests,” she said.

“It is vital that any suspected sightings of these pests are reported to state or territory’s department of agriculture or biosecurity early so that all measures can be taken to ensure they are dealt with in a timely and effective manner.”

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) is leading the response and is implementing a quarantine and surveillance program within a 10km radius of the Townsville port.

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council executive director Trevor Weatherhead said the local community and bee keepers also have a critical role in containing and reporting bee hives and feral bee populations within a 10km area of the Townsville port.

“It is also important that people working at seaports and around imported goods be vigilant to pests and animals that are unusual, and may have come in with imported cargo,” Mr Weatherhead said.

Dr Lye said the Australian honey bee industry has been proactive and taken significant preparedness steps to safeguard Australia from the risk of varroa mite, including raising their EPPR levy, expanding the Sentinel Hive scheme and employing honey bee biosecurity officers more recently.

Mr. Weatherhead. said it is currently believed that these forms of varroa mites do not readily transfer between host species. “If the mite is found on Asian honey bees, it does not readily move to European honey bees.

“While there are no expected domestic or international trade issues at this time, it is important that all industry stakeholders work together to ensure rigorous surveillance of varroa is maintained.”

2016 Annual Honey and Photographic Competition.

Results

<i>Exhibitor</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Place</i>
Helmut Huber	Creamed Honey	First Place
Jorge Kemper	Creamed Honey	Second Place
Sue Zuber	Creamed Honey	Third Place
Barry Cooper	Dark Honey	First Place
Sue Zuber	Dark Honey	Second Place
Melissa Palviainen	Dark Honey	Third Place
John Treloar	Medium Honey	First Place
John Treloar	Medium Honey	Second Place
Marion Cook	Medium Honey	Third place
John Treloar	Light Honey	First Place
Sue Zuber	Light Honey	Second Place
Regine Chantler	Light Honey	Third Place
Jorge Kemper	Comb	First Place
Marion Cook	Comb	Second Place
Gary Bourne	Photograph	First Place
Jorge Kemper	Photograph	Second Place
Jorge Kemper	Photograph	Third Place

Thanks to all who submitted entries, this year saw an increased number of entries and a very high quality of honey and presentation. Congratulations to all.

President Report: 2015-2016

It has been a year of substantial growth and progress within the club, some of which members have seen firsthand and some improvements behind the scene but very necessary to ensure we as a Club conform to good governance and meet statutory requirements. This club is becoming quite a large business and we have completed the year in a very sound financial position. We have been able to lock away an amount more than equal to a year's operating costs into a Term Deposit account to secure our future against unforeseen circumstance and at the same time earn interest on unused funds.

The committee initially focused on 3 areas of management control:

1. Installing a fully integrated software management system which enables up to date membership records, member payment and receipt details, event registration and to contribute to easy club member correspondence.
2. A fully integrated accounting system giving us complete financial control.
3. Interactive web site.

In addition to the improved management systems, which as I said, were necessary to meet statutory requirements we also focused heavily on training.

During the year we held four Beginner courses which resulted in approximately 50 new members, we also conducted a Re Queen exercise at Ralph Lynch's apiary, of which some 25 members attended; in addition we held 2 Flow Course seminars which both extended over 2 days. These Flow courses were held with the participation of the Flow Company and DEPI input and have been highly received and praised by Industry sources and produced a tremendous amount of publicity and praise, as well as income for our club. These courses as formulated by us (particularly

Andrew Wootton) were a world first and it is highly probable with the initial interest shown that the course material may be purchased from us by other organizations for use in other locations.

From these courses the club has benefited by way of our increased membership which reached a high of 316 paid members but more importantly, we have produced some excellent training material which will be added to the club library for members benefit. We have purchased a number of new books and currently waiting delivery, at this time I must sincerely thank Helmut Huber who so ably has managed the library so successfully for a number of years.

In addition to these new reference books, we have also purchased interactive training aids from UK and America, some aids, such as the hive simulator, have already been delivered, we are waiting on biology bee slides and microscopes, which should be here within the next few weeks. These will be used not only at training courses but will also be available at monthly club meetings for member use.

The committee believes that by offering a more spacious, comfortable venue with good seating, audio visual equipment, car parking etc, a higher participation rate by members would result. There would be many benefits to the learning and social atmosphere of the club if we were able to comfortably accommodate a larger percentage of our membership at monthly meetings. To this end we are investigating alternative venues in this area, and over the next few meetings we will trial suitable venues.

Reflecting back on the year I believe we have achieved much in the 10 months since the last AGM, but at the same time we have been conscious to maintain and service our old mainstay members and I think days such as the family day at Petty's Orchard which more than 90 people attended, the day trip to McDonalds also fully booked out. The Perth field trip early this month was another resounding success and proves that members want the opportunity to attend these types of events.

Our monthly meetings have been structured to give a variation to the beginner's corner; and we have been able to secure some great guest speakers over the year that hopefully held interest for all membership levels. I believe we have more than ever, by way of the formal meeting segment, given members a good chance to speak and air any views they held, or ask questions and participate at each monthly meeting. Over the last 5 or so meetings we have averaged well over a 100 members at each meeting with one meeting 140.

The annual Honey and Photo competition was again held and in the coming year we would hope to enlarge it, thereby getting more participation by including wax products, candles, soap, cake baking and etc.

However as I have often said it is your club and we as a committee can only do so much, so I can talk about our successes but the reality is that it can only be a success if members support the club and events. Although difficult early in the year, I believe since a rationalisation of the committee we have kept the friendly atmosphere that this club has always portrayed.

I take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to the many who have given me, and indeed the current committee, the encouragement and kind words of support throughout the year it is very much appreciated.

I have to concede, as most will realize that early in the new administration there were times when it became evident that other forces were at play within the club and it would have been easy at that time for the club to disintegrate, I do not resile from the changes we made which on all indications have paid off and encouraged the club to grow to our present position, but I have to say that no one on this current committee acted with anything but total professionalism and propriety during that time, and did not engage in the personal politics that some of the opponents did. Those previous office bearers were always invited to talk

in the correct manner, and encouraged to stay within the club; and I can say regardless of what you may have heard no one was forced out of this club by this committee. There was an officially constituted disciplinary committee decision for 2 members, of which no committee member sat on.

Lastly, over the last 6-8 months since the board rationalised I have not worked with a more cohesive and dedicated committee than this one. Yvonne Ashby stepped in as Treasurer and has driven the accounting system to ensure its success, but every committee person has really dedicated themselves to the job and I believe this has reflected in a very successful and satisfying year, and I thank each and every one for their effort and I would hope we have the opportunity for this attitude and direction to continue into the new year, if all re-elected.

It indeed has been a privilege and an honour to head what is now quite arguably regarded as the major amateur beekeeping club in Victoria and one of the best in Australia, I thank you for the opportunity and support.

We all look forward to a great 2016/2017.

Don Muir
President.

It has been heartening to see so many members renew their subscription so early for the coming year, already taking the membership total well into the high 200's. I remind any member who has not yet paid their subs that it can be done online, or in person at the July meeting. We accept electronic banking transfer, cheque and or cash.

Western Australia Field Trip July 2-4

Andrew Wootton



Election day dawned and 18 beekeepers headed west. In the air you can't hear the "jobs and growth" mantra. After only minor incompetence from the airport taxi marshals it was first stop the hotel to drop our bags and then off

on the bus for the first visit.



At West Coast Apiaries, Tina Mettam and Stephen Fewster warmly welcomed us and introduced us to WA beekeeping. The nectar flows are

long and various and the winters short. With no small hive beetle it's bee utopia.

All too soon it was back on the bus and off to Don's Party. Unfortunately Don was absent, having been obliged to stay in Melbourne. However, his organizational genius had stretched across the Nullarbor and the Western Australian Apiarists Society were there to entertain us with Edda Emery and Geoff Defrenne mustering their members to ensure we had plenty of bee talk and plenty to drink.



Next morning we headed to Saxonbees. There, Rod Pavey demonstrated his techniques for drying and purifying pollen. Only in WA are the nectar flows long enough to sustain

commercial pollen production and his operation is the hub for the whole of Australia. Fascinating.

Next stop Beez Neez with Dave and Leilani Leyland providing lunch and a tour of their extraction line. Once again the intricacies of migratory beekeeping were revealed; chasing nectar flows from exotic flora such as karri, jarrah and parrot bush.



On again, this time to the House of Honey with its thriving retail outlet which caps a hugely successful end-to-end operation. Rupert Phillips' enthusiasm knows no bounds, extending from bees to cranes.





photo Barry Cooper

Ciber Monday was the highlight of the trip. This research facility is housed in the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in the University of Western Australia. Naturally the work being performed at the Centre for Integrative Bee Research is captivating, with the latest proteomics methodologies being applied to bee reproduction and immunology. Prof Boris Baer and researcher Julia Grassl painstakingly explained their studies and the questions swarmed. Supporting the operation are busy outreach and bee yard activities; affable hosts Barbara Baer-Imhoof and Tiffane Bates guided us around these as they outlined their activities. We could have stayed all day, but unfortunately the plane beckoned and CIBER had work to do.

What a great trip. Filled with information and interest. Thank you Don, outstanding organization. What a shame not to share it with you. We were inspired and enthused. Where next?.....article by Andrew Wootton

Linda Barron has brought to our attention a couple of books she has recently purchased and speaks highly of.

The Backyard Beekeeper 3rd edition. An absolute Beginner's Guide to keeping Bees in your Yard and Garden by Kim Flottum ISBN: 978-1-59253-919-2 there is also a digital edition printed in 2014 eISBN 978-1-62788-0398

Another she mentioned was (The Honey Bee Democracy, by Thomas Seeley) which talks more about the life of bees than of being a beekeeper. Great insight into the way they live as a community.

We will try and source copies for the club library.

During winter It is a good idea to occasionally check your stacked supers and frames for wax moth or any other infestation.

Just go through each stack to check, if wax moth is seen remove frame and destroy comb. Check frames for any borer sign; I usually give the frame quick going over with a heat gun to kill any unwanted pests.

Maintaining and repairing wooden components.

If your boxes are showing signs of rot you can sand down remove decay and fill with plastic wood re-sand to shape when dry and paint over. Pay particular attention to corners and joints, sand and reseal with a filler before painting.

Apply a coat of good primer and finish with an Acrylic paint, you can use oil based but Acrylic is just as good and easier to clean up. Light colours such as white, light green, or similar are best suited. I usually use at least 2 coats of finish.

I do not paint the inside, but if you do, allow about 5-6 weeks for the paint smell to completely disappear before use. Apart from the bottom board I leave all my boxes untreated internally.

One last tip, when you are repairing your boxes for brood use if not already installed fit an entrance closure for later moving or re location of hives.

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.



Bruce's beekeeping tips for winter.

Don't remove frames for inspection.

Unless temperatures are above 16°C, with little or no wind it's too cold to expose bees to the air. You can do a brief inspection only if you must, but it's best to leave the bees alone.

Check your hives from the outside.

Lift them to gauge any weight loss every couple of weeks. If weight loss has occurred you can use a hive top or inverted feeder to give them some sugar syrup. This movement is known as "hefting".

Put equipment away properly.

Make sure all your equipment is cleaned and safely stored ready for next year. clean wooden frames, supers, bottom boards and lids of any wax and propolis,

and then wash with a solution of washing soda and water. Old brood combs that are in good condition should be frozen for 24 hours, and then stored securely.

Rewire and repair frames and boxes.

Rewire frames and fit new foundation where necessary. Sand and repaint bottom boards, boxes and lids. Store them so come spring the new paint smell has disappeared

Order any required equipment now.

Take an inventory of what you have and make a list of what you will need for next season, only buy what you really do need not a wish list of what you want or would like. Beat the rush of early spring when everyone else is buying equipment.

Order bees online now.

This is the best time to contact Queen breeders and discuss order requirements. Many suppliers are out of stock by early spring. Think about how many queens you will need and order now for early spring delivery.

Library books are for a loan of 1 month only. It is your responsibility to return the book by the due date.

If you are unable to attend the next club meeting, you need to ensure that the book is returned on your behalf. Failure to do so will result in a \$5.00 per month overdue fee.

For further details on library conditions please speak to Helmut Huber Club Librarian.

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