

Beelines

Newsletter of The Beekeepers Club Inc. Est 1998.

JUNE 2016.

Mission statement:

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



Now is the time to repair equipment.

*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.

16th June 2016 7.30pm Beginners Corner
 Honey and Photographic competition.
 Extended supper and honey tastings

21st July 2016 AGM

Upcoming Events.

Perth WA field trip.

2nd – 4th July 2016. Cost \$ 695 .00 per person includes airfares,
 accommodation, some meals and coach travel.

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 Saxon St Brunswick.

Queen breeding.

Workshop and practical training on raising queens.

5-6th November 2016.

Venue. Community rooms Saxon St Brunswick.

More planned events and courses on page 8.

Keep an eye on the events page of club web site for registration and event details

Perth Field Trip.

Leave Melbourne QANTAS 8.30am Saturday 2nd July.

Saturday on arrival at Perth, check into hotel and then travel in the afternoon to SaxonBee Enterprises at Gidgegannup, approx. 45km from Perth. SaxonBee is Australia's largest supplier of Australian bee pollen, return to hotel. Saturday night dinner with representatives of the WA Beekeepers Association.

Sunday; visit to 2 large commercial beekeeping and packing operations, including honey tastings of specific WA honey types. Mead tasting at Perth's only commercial mead brewery, bus tour through Swan Valley wine region.

Monday 4th July. Morning to lunch at CIBER Uni of WA. Lectures and presentations on the various bee research projects currently being undertaken by Professor Baer and his team. Full inspection of CIBER facility.

After lunch a visit to Wescobee, Capilano's WA packing and distribution centre.

Tour of Perth highlights on way to airport for 5.00pm departure arriving Melbourne 10.30PM.

The cost is \$695.00 per person, including airfares, hotel accommodation, breakfasts and bus travel.

At time of publication I can advise there will be NO surcharge for single rooms, so room offers are double, twin share or single at same cost

Booking details are now on the club website; go to events page to register your intention to travel. Alternative or delayed return dates will be available. Contact Don Muir editor@beekeepers.org.au or phone 0404 38 1942 for further details.

Juniors Club.

We have now secured a permanent premises for our proposed Junior Beekeepers Club, and the first session is scheduled for Saturday 16th July 2016 . Meetings will be held 3rd Saturday of each month (12 per year) 9.30am – 12.00.noon Annual club cost is \$ 40.00 per student.

Mulluana College have offered space for a training apiary and classroom meeting facility. I am pleased to announce that Vanessa Kwiatkowski has agreed to be the Club facilitator.

So if you have a child, grandchildren or know of young people between 14 – 17 who have an interest in beekeeping then take the opportunity and enrol them in this club. The syllabus will give an excellent introduction into beekeeping.

Training Modules will include;

Biology of the Bee	Constructing and maintaining
Natural history of the bee	hive components.
Pests and Diseases	Microscopy and bee biology
Manipulation of the hive	Flow hive beekeeping.
Robbing and extraction.	Correct use of bee keeping tools

The meetings will also involve presentations by visiting bee experts and hands on hive work.

From July we will require 5 or 6 members to volunteer to roster for bi monthly services at the Junior beekeepers club. Dependent upon final enrolment numbers we will need at least 1 person to assist our course facilitator at each meeting, and occasionally step in to take the course. All volunteers will require working with children certification which the club will pay for.

For further details contact Don Muir editor@beekeepers.org.au
ph. 0404 38 1942.

Honey Competition June 16th 2016

Do not forget to bring your entries along to the June meeting. The judging classes this year are.

Dark Honey, Medium Honey, Light Honey, Creamed Honey, Comb Honey and Bee or Honey related photos. (taken by yourself).

When presenting honey for judging remember the following:-

- Fill jars to fill ring at start of the screw lid threads, do not overfill.
- Do not allow honey to get onto inside of lid.
- No wax or scum around top of honey
- Strain honey to remove all particles
- Try and reduce air bubbles

The judging criteria is based on .

- Colour
- Flavour
- Density
- Aroma
- Presentation.

Awards and certificates for category winners will be presented.

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 wanted pests.

Things to do in Winter.

We are into the non productive time of beekeeping, less time on colony works and more on equipment maintenance.

Things to put into your calendar for the next few months should include.

Those supers that need to be repaired should be cleaned, cut and fill any rot, sanded and repainted. I am told concrete paving paint is a good medium as it will last longer and is usually a little cheaper to buy. I also go to a paint reseller such as Bristol paints and look at buying mismatched or incorrect colours, I recently paid \$8 for 4 litres of a light sandstone colour. Your supers do not have to be painted white.

The 2-3 year old dark to black frames cut out comb and either re wire or tighten existing wires. I do not replace with new foundation until required or until early spring.

Clean and repair old lids and bottom boards.



I use pine needles and although I find them a good smoke source the lid does get clogged with soot. Carefully scrape out inside soot and once all is removed use a soap steel wool pad and lightly polish and clean, wipe dry after.

Carefully unscrew the 4 screws holding the bellows and remove bellows from the smoker body. Clean the air holes in both the bellows and the smoker. Again lightly steel wool the smoker body wipe dry and checking that the air holes are still clean, check bellows for tears if all ok then refit bellows to the smoker.



Cleaned ready to go.

I usually give my bellows front and back a quick paint job just to improve appearance. Paint or stain is ok.

Although you should have already done it at last hive opening, steel wool and give hive tools and any other equipment a good clean and dry.

If your leather beekeeping gloves are covered in propolis, I have heard rather than trying to wash it off which will probably only make it stickier and spread it out more, put your gloves into the freezer until they are just about frozen, you don't want them deep frozen. On removal from the freezer you will find that the propolis will crack away from the gloves.

You can then wash your gloves in a mild solution of washing up detergent. Do not submerge the gloves, I wear them and wipe with a damp cloth of the detergent solution. A medium bristle nail or toothbrush will help move some of the trickier stains. You can then hang them up to dry; do not put them into a tumble dryer.

Once dry put your hands into them to ensure they have stayed in shape. Some people suggest if you have leather or goat skin gloves a light application of olive oil to soften them up and prevent them from cracking; if you decide to do this any unscented natural oil can be used.

Cleaning your jacket.

After removing the veil the remainder of the garment can be machine washed on a gentle cycle cool temperature (30°C). Higher temperatures will soften the elastic and will not remove propolis stains and may only soften it, potentially leading to sticky deposits left in your washing machine drum. Hang to dry do not tumble dry.

Of course you can also just give your jacket a good hand wash in luke warm water which I always prefer to machine.

Hand wash the veil being careful not to damage the mesh. Check the mesh for any tears and if seen you may be able to fill hole or tear with the use of a glue heat gun.

Refit veil after the garment is fully dry again from my own experience I do not refit veil until just before I need it and I store my veil in a safe place where it will not get squashed or damaged.

If you have completed all the above, or if you have been really efficient and done all the above before winter then go sit on a.....



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.



Honey bees defecating at the entrance of the hive can be a symptom associated with *Nosema* infection.

D. Broberg, www.flickr.com/photos/dbroberg

Both *Nosema* species affect the honey bee's digestive system

causing a range of symptoms, which are more apparent when nutrition is poor and weather conditions are cold and wet. However, there are no truly diagnostic symptoms of Nosemosis, rather a number of symptoms that are associated with the disease. However, these general colony symptoms could easily be confused with other pests or pathogens, or other factors such as a lack of pollen or nectar. Laboratory examination of adult bees is the only accurate way to diagnose *Nosema*.

A common symptom of *Nosema apis* infection is dysentery (brown diarrhoea on combs and the outside of the hive). Dysentery is not actually caused by the fungus, although *N. apis* infections make the infected bee more susceptible to other secondary infections, which subsequently cause the dysentery.

A queen bee can control the flow of sperm to fertilize an egg when she is about to lay an egg. Honey bees have an unusual genetic sex determination system known as haplodiploidy. Worker bees are produced from fertilized eggs and have a full (double) set of chromosomes. The males, or drones, develop from unfertilized eggs and are thus haploid with only a single set of chromosome



Dysentery around the hive entrance. D. Broberg, www.flickr.com/photos/dbroberg

Infection by *N. apis* is also associated with the presence of honey bees crawling around the hive entrance, sometimes with wings held at odd angles. Some bees will have swollen and greasy looking abdomens and in severe cases may appear to be trembling.

Workers that are infected at a young age become unable to produce brood food and become foragers at a young age. This together with a reduced egg laying ability and shorted lifespan of infected queens causes a reduction in brood production. This causes reduced colony strength and may result in reduced honey production and heavy winter losses.



Dysentery within a hive. Photo. Michael Plein

N. apis infections are usually most apparent in autumn and early spring. This is because the bees are often unable to make cleansing flights at these times of the year as the temperature is regularly insufficient for flight. This results in dysentery in and around the hive, which allows the spores to build up within the hive and have a greater impact on the colony. As temperatures warm again the bees can make regular cleansing flights causing the infection levels within the colony to drop and the disease to become undetectable. Symptoms will likely return when conditions again favour the disease. Good management practices (such as keeping hives in a warm and sunny position over the autumn, winter and spring periods to allow regular cleansing flights) can reduce the risk of the disease building up to damaging levels over the cooler part of the year.

Unlike *N. apis*, *N. ceranae* is present at similar levels all year round and population losses can occur at any time of the year. Infections typically result in a slow drop in the adult population over summer and heavy winter losses. Sometimes dead bees will be seen around the hive, but this is not always the case. Infection by *N. ceranae* has a similar overall effect on the colony as *N. apis*. However, the dysentery and crawling bee behaviour that is associated with *N. apis*, has not been observed with *N. ceranae*

Acknowledgement to Beeaware Aust. For text and images.

The only reason for making a buzzing-noise that I know of is because you're a bee...The only reason for being a bee that I know of is making honey....and the only reason for making honey is so I can eat it.

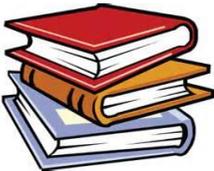
~ **Winnie the Pooh in A.A. Milne's 'The House at Pooh Corner'**

2016 AGM

Under the Model Rules of Incorporation of Association for a non profit organization I remind members that any financial member of the club is eligible to stand for an office bearing position.

If you want to contribute to the club operation you are invited to pick up a nomination form at the next meeting and return to the Secretary by the 18th July 2016.

To stand for office and/or to vote at the AGM a member must be a current financial member, so please ensure your annual subscription is paid prior to the AGM.



REMINDER.

The library book is for loan for 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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