

# Beelines

*Newsletter of The Beekeepers Club Inc. Est 1998.*

**MARCH 2016.**

Mission statement:

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



Bob McDonald.

*Meeting venue; Senior Citizens Club. 895-901 Doncaster Road Doncaster  
East. Melway 47k-1. Opposite Dan Murphy's.*

*Meetings held 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month 7.00pm for 7.30pm.*

*Guests and Visitors are Welcome*

*Enquiries and information:*

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

## Next Meeting.

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2016**      Prof David Vaux WEHI. Using bees to research cancer  
7.30pm.                      Beginners corner. Vanessa Kwiatkowski and Paul Davies

### Club Meetings:

21<sup>st</sup> April 2016.                      Cooking with Honey.  
19<sup>th</sup> May 2016                      DEPI Apiary Inspector Joe Riordan (TBC) Pests and Diseases  
16<sup>th</sup> June 2016                      Honey Competition  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2016                      AGM

## GIPPSLAND APIARIST ASSOCIATION

The GAA is holding a field day Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016 10.00am – 3.30pm

The day will focus on extracting honey and packing down hives for winter.

Other topics and workshops will include:-

- Components of a hive, their uses and construction
- Lighting and the safe use of a bee smoker
- How to use hive tools correctly
- The correct method to approach and handle bees
- Lectures on pests and diseases.

Bring your own protective clothing.

Catering will be available throughout the day. Entry \$ 10.00. Kids free.

For further information contact Bill Ringin 0498 594 897. Or Ph. 5633 1326

Site: 6 Graham St Darnum (near Warragul) 45 mins from Dandenong.

## *McDonalds field trip.*

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb saw a group of 48 club members join the coach at 8.30am for a day trip to Castlemaine where Bob and Eileen McDonald were our gracious hosts for an enjoyable and informative day to see the workings of a commercial beekeeping operation. Bob and Eileen later joined us as our guests at the 5 Flags Hotel Campbell's Creek for a good old style country pub lunch.

Leaving Manningham Civic Centre at 8.30am, (for the first time in club history I think) everyone was on time, no late stragglers Jaytee Coaches again got us to our destination without any problems, other than a couple of uneducated and rather course comments about the no expense spared on board entertainment, supplied on a 60 minute CD of Scottish Bagpipe music.

After a short stop at Kyneton we arrived at McDonalds 11.30am where Eileen had a welcome morning tea and refreshments.



With the plant inspection starting in the extraction room we were shown the process of receiving, de capping and extraction, then moving through to the wood work shop and wax dipping and painting.

Afterwards it was a case of donning veils and Bob gave an impromptu

lesson on hive opening and what to look for when opening a hive, brood, general hive health, packing down for winter, and types of pollen and how to recognize various eucalypts. I have reprinted excerpts from Bob's booklet later in this edition.

After an enjoyable and informative couple of hours we boarded the coach for a short 5 minute trip to the hotel for lunch during which Eileen gave an address on allergies and desensitization and Bob also spoke about identification of various eucalypts.

We sincerely thank Bob, Eileen and all the McDonald family for the great effort they went to ensuring we had an absolute successful day. It is not often that we can have the opportunity of our own pack down day with such an experienced and knowledgeable beekeepers as Bob and Eileen.



*Bob explains the maintenance of equipment*



*Painting and wax dipping*



Inspecting stock.



**W**e have had a large number of new members join the club over the last few weeks and we warmly welcome you all to the next meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> March to hear Professor David Vaux.

Professor Vaux is a very entertaining speaker and will give a presentation on Bees and their role in Cancer research.

So come along and hear a great presentation.

For those club members wanting assistance or help we have a FAQ page and forum on the website. This is an excellent way to quickly find an answer to any question, if this forum does not satisfy your problem just email your enquiry to [mentor@beekeepers.org.au](mailto:mentor@beekeepers.org.au) for a quick return reply.

I also urge those of you who have seen unexpected or interesting things in your hives or read something of general interest to post on the forum page for the interest of others.

## Flow hive Course.

The club is conducting a 2 day course in conjunction with the Flow hive company with the participation of the DEPI Apiary inspectors on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016. 9.30 – 5.30pm both days.

The course is specifically aimed at the purchasers of the Flow hive who have little or no beekeeping experience. We aimed for 50 applicants and sold out in a little over 6 hours and had a further 70 applicants on waitlist so we will be running two courses to accommodate all registrants.

The venue for the first day will be in North Fitzroy and the second day at the Abbotsford convent (Collingwood Children's farm).

We would appreciate at least 3 club members to attend each day to assist with logistics, hall set up catering etc. If you can volunteer for either one day or both please see Andrew Wootton or Don Muir at the meeting.

You will be rewarded with all meals.

By running this course for new participants to the industry, we feel the club is reflecting our mission statement in a positive way to both the new beekeepers, and the wider community, and the industry in general.

The course is the first of its kind in the world.

## Flora Identification.

The following article is a reprint of a paper given by Bob McDonald to the Bendigo Branch of the VAA Inc. 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Text is reprinted with the permission of Bob McDonald which is appreciated.

In learning to recognise the different Eucalypt species there are three major features that need to be taken into account.



BARK – through the texture and colour

LEAF – through shape and size and quite often colour.

LOCATION – Soil preferences for particular species, annual rainfall and, in many cases elevation i.e. height above sea level.

There is a variation in bark and leaf within varieties, and both of these can also vary at different times of the year.

Using a combination of all three can help greatly in establishing exactly which species a person is looking at.

A final determination is the size and shape of buds, and the timing of when a particular tree flowers.

The following hopefully will teach you how to recognise buds.

### **Box – Iron Bark Forest Belt.**

Eucalypt trees of the Box\_Iron bark forest.

Bark is the easiest, most distinctive feature.

1. **Gum trees – Smooth barks,**  
Red Gum (*euc. Camaldulensis*)



Yellow Gum (*Euc. Leucoxylon*)

Sugar Gum (*Euc. Cladocalyx*). Not native to area, but widely planted.

Victorian Blue Gum ( *Euc. Stjohnii*)

Candle Bark. ( *Euc rubida*) Only found at higher elevations.

Manna Gum ( *Euc. Viminalis*)



Red Gum.



Yellow Gum



Sugar Gum



Victorian Blue Gum





Candle Bark



Manna Gum.

**BOX trees.** These are Sub – fibrous, flaky bark, usually smoother on higher limbs.

Grey Box ( *Euc macrocarpa* )

White Box ( *Euc albens* ).

Long Leaf Box ( *Euc goniocalyx* )

Red Box ( *Euc polyanthemus* ) Bark tending to more scaly than sub-fibrous.

Yellow Box ( *Euc melliodora* ) Bark tending to more scaly than sub-fibrous.



Grey Box



White Box.



Long Leaf Box.

Yellow Box

With Red Box and Yellow Box, the bark tends to be more scaly than sub-fibrous.



Red Box



## STRING BARK TREES. Bark is fibrous/stringy

Red Stringy Bark (*Euc. Macrorhyncha*)

Messmate (*Euc. obliqua*) only at higher altitudes



Red stringy bark



Messmate

When we first look at trees, the most noticeable feature is the bark. All Eucalypt trees grow internally and need to stretch the bark as the trunk expands. The Gum group shows obvious signs through the year and this can show the distinct variations in colour and texture. All other trees' barks stretch and grow with the tree.

## Club Matters:

Due to the resignation of Paul Pynaker as Treasurer, The committee has seconded Yvonne Ashby to fill the vacant position of Treasurer. This appointment has been made by provision of P 57 (1) of the Model Rules of the Association.

Yvonne is a qualified accountant and has already commenced installation of a complete accounting package which will give greater control and transparency over club finances and overall improvement in the management of finances and assets of the club.

I welcome her to the committee.

On behalf of members I would like to thank Paul for his many years of service to the club in the capacity of Treasurer



### Honey Competition.

The annual honey competition will be held during the June meeting.

Jars will be available at the March, April and May meetings.

For the newer members a few tips to remember are :-

- ✓ Honey should be presented in the approved glass container.
- ✓ Fill the jar to 1<sup>st</sup> ring mark, no honey should be in contact with lid
- ✓ Minimise wax or foam around jar neck
- ✓ Present clear honey, no granulation, lint, wax or foreign matter
- ✓ Decant early let the honey settle.

I will publish further hints and scoring categories in the next month Beelines.

Prepare early for best results.

Minutes of last meeting.

Due to the lack of time to inspect and read the minutes at our monthly meetings I shall now publish a copy in the newsletter to give more time for questions at the meetings.

**Beekeepers Club Inc.****February Club Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Meeting commenced 9:10 pm

(Note: the normal program was interrupted for discussion initiated by the Treasurer and supported by Ann Reeves, Marie DeLima, Geoff Neville and Ian Brown. This was outside the time set aside for the members' meeting, but is minuted here for completeness. The group expressed discontent with the running of the club by the current committee. The President responded and put forward the views and achievements of the current committee. The Treasurer publicly resigned his position and left the meeting, accompanied by the others mentioned above.

*There were 81 members recorded on the sign in sheets and 4 guests*

Minutes of previous meeting were confirmed (P: Jorg Kemper, S: Lyndon Joss)

**Presidents Report:**

Outlined arrangements for trip to McDonalds Honey and indicated still some places available on the bus.

Highlighted that a business plan had been drafted by Keith Harvey and a short survey was to be distributed to members seeking input as to future directions.

Indicated that several applications to attend the Biosecurity Online Course had been received and that the subcommittee would be forwarding its recommendations shortly.

Fundamentals of Beekeeping Certificates were distributed to Ian and Faye Kirkwood.

Social family day at Petty's Orchard on the 31<sup>st</sup> January was attended by approx. 80 members and was affirmed a success. Some attendees have not yet paid and will be provided with suitable opportunities to settle.

Logo competition winner was announced as Ros Long and winning entry displayed. Now awaiting Committee endorsement or request for further development. Franklin Ness suggested that a plebiscite of the members be held for such an important issue and President indicated that Committee would give this appropriate consideration.

President regretfully indicated that disciplinary action had been initiated against certain club members in accordance with the model rules for Consumer Affairs Incorporated Associations. A panel of 2 senior members who are not on the Club Committee and one external consultant have been appointed.

### **Questions and matters raised.**

Is a mentoring arrangement available to allow beginners to shadow more experienced members? (Linda Ferguson).

A: absolutely, just ask. Requires an efficient mechanism for putting participants in touch. Club Committee will investigate options.

Q: are membership cards available? (Hung Dinh)

A: cards have been printed and are available for current beginner's course participants so they can claim a discount from Bob's Beekeeping. Any other new members requiring card to contact secretary. New cards will be issued at the next membership renewal.

Q; Dr Fern Edwards (cultural anthropologist from RMIT) requested volunteers for interview about beekeeping in urban environments.

A: Secretary to distribute email details.

Meeting closed: 9:30 PM



## Program to improve honeybee biosecurity through the training of beekeepers.

The following has been received from Barry Cooper Chairman of the external selection panel, for the Biosecurity course being funded by the State Government.

“Following recommendation from your selection panel and having regard for the limited number of available sponsorships, we wish to inform you of outcome of the following applications from your club.”

**Linda Anderson-Berry: successful      Jennifer Fenton: successful**

This is a great effort from both applicants as well as the club who managed to acquire two positions for the course.

I take this opportunity to thank all club members who submitted, all submissions were extremely high quality, and very well regarded by the judging panel, well done to all.....(editor).



### Logo Competition Winning Entry:

Ros long's entry has been selected by the judging panel to be submitted to the club membership for approval.



## Dealing with bee stings

### Removing the sting

Remove the sting as quickly as possible to minimize the amount of venom injected. Muscles in the detached sting will continue to drive the sting deeper into the skin and at the same time pump more venom into the victim. Delay in removing the sting increases the venom injected.

Remove the sting by scraping or plucking it. Research reported in the medical journal, *The Lancet*, in 1996, pointed out that the method used to remove the sting did not seem to affect the quantity of venom received. It was more important to get the sting out as quickly as possible.

Apply appropriate medication to the sting site if required to minimize pain.

A few simple natural remedies are:

1. Ice – apply for a maximum of 20 minutes
2. Honey ( do not use if allergic to bees or honey) apply a small dab and cover with gauze for approximately 30 minutes
3. Lavender essential oil – a couple of drops will netralize the venom immeadiately
4. Baking soda and vinegar – make a paste and dab on the wound for 30 minutes
5. Antihistamine (hay fever tablets) will reduce swelling and itch
6. Toothpaste – the glycerin base has a soothing effect and will reduce pain and swelling.



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