

# BEELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC

SEPTEMBER 2018



*2018 Photo competition 1st prize. Photo Roland Gibbons*

## Upcoming Events (see website for full details and registration)

### Club Monthly Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 7:00 PM

Doncaster Secondary College,  
123 Church Rd, Doncaster 3108

Swarm—Prevention, Control & Collecting.

Presented by John Treloar, Mat Lumalasi and  
Helmut Huber

### Pick my Project

We need your help! Please vote by **5 pm on  
Monday 17 September 2018.**

See details inside.

### Beginners Courses

Sept 15<sup>th</sup> Another successful day held.

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> Only 1 place left.

### Club Apiary Hive Inspection

A routine hive inspection will be held at the club apiary for any new or interested members. Bee suits and gloves will be available to borrow.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep 2018 11:00 AM

Please register (free) on the web site.

Note: You need to be logged in to see the event.

### Nuc Nanny Course

13-27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018 Fully booked.

## Annual General Meeting

The club held its AGM during the August Club Meeting.

## Committee for 2018-2019

### Executive

President	Mat Lumalasi
Vice President	Helmut Huber
Secretary	Vanessa Kwiatkowski
Treasurer	Linda Ferguson
Training & Education	John Treloar

### Committee

Dan Milic	Nicole Owens
Glenn Vance	Debbie Webber

## President's Annual Report

Mat Lumalasi

We have had a positive year of growth for the club with 259 paid members and another 156 remaining due. This is excellent for the club and it does allow us to offer some excellent additions over other clubs.

We have seen a good number of meeting attendees and we are always interested in learning what would attract more people on the night.

The use of technology for sign in has saved lengthy queuing as well as helped us keep track of the members attending at different times of the year. This information is something that we plan to utilise in a beneficial way for the members by ways of loyalty gifts, replacing the traditional door prizes.

The club apiary saw a successful Christmas/End of year party with guests staying well into the darkness.

The club hives have been invaluable for courses and education to members. This was one of our biggest hurdles in the past where live hives are essential for hands on learning.

Our courses have been very well received, to the extent where our industry officers are recommending our club and courses to new beekeepers. These courses also provide a healthy revenue stream to the club.

We are planning on offering more of the intermediate and advanced courses in the following years after the success of the Winter workshops of the past.

Our juniors club saw a general member now offering additional help and we are looking into developing more interest to the juniors and also relocating the club into the Apiary site.

Although we would have liked to achieve more in the last year and with an unusual amount of committee resignations making it tough, I owe thanks to my current committee for their support throughout the year.

As a new president, I will not pretend that there is not an immense learning curve. This is exciting and challenging at the same time and now having a better understanding of the requirements of the role, will be able achieve great things if supported in 2019.

With our education at a very high level, I believe its time to shift our focus towards the social aspects of the club over the next year and see more events for family and friends in addition to the courses currently offered.

With a hugely successful 1<sup>st</sup> ever Victorian Recreational Beekeeping Conference in June, we are negotiating the hosting of the 2019 Conference here in Melbourne under our clubs' banner. This is a very exciting opportunity and will require extensive planning to make it as successful as the last. We will be looking to form a sub-committee specifically for this event and hope to see some interest from the members.

It has been an honour to serve as the president of what is regarded as the leading club of Melbourne, if not Victoria. I hope to be given to opportunity to continue.

## Secretary's Annual Report

Andrew Wootton

Paid memberships are currently at 222 with a further 173 due for renewal.

Monthly meeting attendances were: Aug (55), Sep (59), Oct (81), Nov (95), Dec (52), Jan (75), Feb (100), Mar (92), Apr (113), May (86), June (63) and July (76). Total recorded is 947 using the barcode scanner and probably slightly under-represent the actual numbers attending.

Beginners' courses were held in Sept 2017 (29 registrants), Nov 2017 (19 registrants), Feb 2018 (32 registrants) and April 2018 (17 registrants). These courses are a significant source of membership recruitment. At a more advanced level, a Queen Rearing workshop in Dec 2017 (8 registrants) together with a In-

intermediate workshop in Mar 2018 (32 registrants). The Nuc Nanny course (Oct 2017) had 10 participants. The Skep workshop was held in Jul (8 attendees). Total course attendances 155. Feedback surveys were conducted on all training course participants and were universally outstandingly positive.

There was 1 Steering (mentoring) visit held Apr 2018 with 12 guests in addition to the host and mentor.

The Club Apiary now has 6 hives and this has proved to be an excellent resource for the training courses. There were hive openings Oct, Jan, Feb, Mar and Apr at which mentoring was conducted. There was delightful interaction with the Community Gardeners, with the shared Christmas function together with participation in the Arty Farty Festival in March 2018 and a Wild Pollinator count in Apr 2018. We harvested honey from the hives and shared this with the Gardeners. A request for funds for an observation hive and interpretive signage has been included in a grant application that the Gardeners are submitting for "Pick My Project".

The field trip visited Beechworth in Jun 2018 with 47 registered. Our thanks to Don Muir for organising this.

We have been successful with a grant application to the Apicultural Industry Advisory Committee seeking support for speakers at the 2019 Victorian Bee Clubs Conference.

## 'Fake' Honey

John Treloar

Making headlines this month, Capilano and supermarkets were accused of unwittingly selling 'fake' honey. Nearly half of the 28 blended and imported honey samples taken from Coles, Woolworths, ALDI and IGA were found to be 'adulterated'. In the tested samples, it was the Chinese aspect of the honey that was adulterated not the Australian honey.

Germany's Quality Services International (QSI) lab used Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) to detect the impurities which is more accurate than the official Australian C4 sugar test. In an email to the Department of Agri-

culture and Water Resources in July, the executive director of the Australian Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), Trevor Weatherhead, asked the department to change to drop the



PHOTO: Honey testing at QSI labs in Germany ABC News)

old C4 test and change to the NMR test if it had not done so already.

ALDI temporarily withdrew the two affected products in its Mixed Blossom Honey range. Woolworths was to review the substance of the claims in detail before determining their next steps. Coles has already removed Allowrie products from its shelves in July after a range review. IGA said it meets all the requirements of the Australian and New Zealand food code.



ABC Rural: David Cloughton



Pick My Project is a Victorian-first community grants initiative, with at least \$1 million in funding available in each metro and regional area. We need your help to vote by **5 PM on Monday 17th September 2018**.

The gardeners club at the Club apiary have submitted a project. We have contributed to their project with an observation hive & signage.

If you'd like to help by **voting for us** you'll need to:

Go to [www.pickmyproject.vic.gov.au](http://www.pickmyproject.vic.gov.au)

**Register:** (top right of home page)

You'll need to give your street, email and phone number

Then you have **two options:**

**Select** home if you are **local** (Within 5km)

**OR** choose **Heidelberg** on the map and find the project

**We are:**



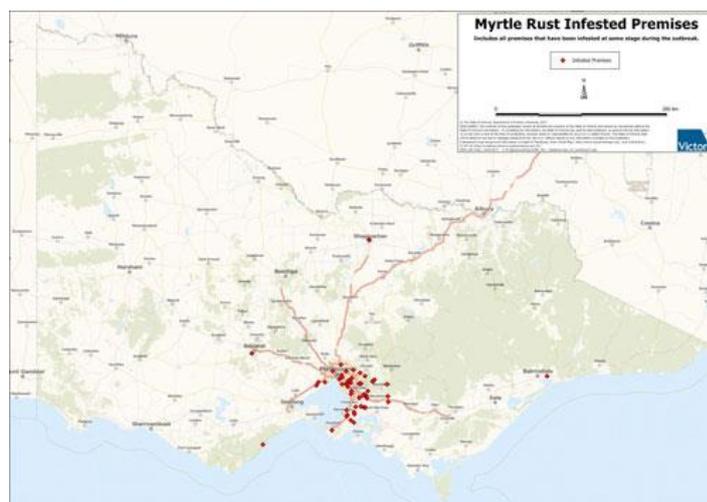
**Community growing and sustainability hub – Yarra Trail, Heidelberg**

Growing local community by promoting gardening and sustainability – Riverside

## Myrtle Rust

Myrtle Rust is a plant disease that poses a serious threat to Australia's native biodiversity. The fungus causes significant damage to the family Myrtaceae (paperbarks, tea-trees, eucalypts, and lillipillies), the most significant plant family for beekeeping in Victoria.

It was first detected in Australia on the NSW central coast in April 2010. It has now been detected at more than 80 sites in Victoria,



mainly at production nurseries and wholesale outlets in and around metropolitan Melbourne.

It won't be possible to eradicate the disease, so the focus is now on management to minimise its spread and impact.

Recently the Plant Biosecurity CRC, in collaboration with the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program, has developed a draft Action Plan to guide a coordinated national environmental response to Myrtle Rust.

The goals of the draft Action Plan are to minimise declines and extinctions of native species due to Myrtle Rust.

More information can be found at <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/plant-diseases/shrubs-and-trees/myrtle-rust>



## Meet the Committee



**Mat Lumalasi—**  
President

This is Mat's second term as President. He is looking to bring fresh ideas to the members and introduce more social activities.



**Helmut Huber—**  
Vice President

Helmut has been a beekeeper for 20 years & Librarian for the club for 14 years.



**Vanessa Kwiatkowski—**  
Secretary

Vanessa has been a full-time beekeeper for the past 9 years looking after 120 hives. She is passionate about raising awareness of the importance of bees in the community.



**Linda Ferguson—**  
Treasurer

Being a newbie Linda brings fresh eyes to the table. She has bookkeeping and office skills to bring to the role.



**John Treloar—**  
Education Officer

John has been a member of the club and keeping bees for 8 years. He has a teaching background and assisted in club's education program last year.



**Dan Milic—**  
General Committee

This is Dan's second time on the committee. He brings enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment to the club and the committee.



**Glenn Vance—**  
General Committee

Glenn has committee experience on the Coonara Beekeeping Group and other organisations. He has 12 years beekeeping experience.



**Nicole Owens—**  
General Committee

Nicole has served as general and vice president on other committees in the past. She has also spent the last 5 years as the bookkeeper for the Victorian Hand Spinners and Weavers Guild.



**Debbie Webber—**  
General Committee

Debbie brings with her experience of being on other club committees.

## Welcome Club Newbees

We extend a warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the club:

Paul Campbell	Mornington
Callum Foat	Hawthorn East
Samantha Humphreys	Croydon
Tony Wilsmore	Moonee Ponds
Klara Morey	Forest Hill
Rhonda Palmieri	Heidelberg Heights
Tony Penwill	
Chris Du Ve	Queenscliff
Benedict Hughes	Northcote
Chris Daffy	Packenham
Peter Kalathas	Ringwood North
Ian Moffat	Balwyn
Fiona Marantelli	Noble Park

## In the Hive

John Treloar

Spring is upon us and don't the bees know it! Stone fruits (apples, pears and plums) have been flowering, although only provide forage for a week or two. Rosemary, lavender and wild turnip are still providing good sources for the bees.



Most beekeepers will have done their first hive inspection some time in August and everyone should have done at least one by now. The bottom board should be cleaned if required and swapping it over can make that job easier but watch out for spiders!

Don't be too concerned if you find mould in the hive as the bees will deal with it and the hive will dry out over coming weeks. The amount of moisture in the hive can vary

greatly from colony to colony. Ventilation can help to control this.

If overwintered in two boxes, many colonies will have consumed honey and moved up into the top box, leaving the bottom brood box largely empty with some pollen in old, dark comb. This is a good opportunity to get the old comb out of the hive and renew the frames with fresh foundation. Over time, the cocoons left behind make the cells smaller and therefore produce smaller bees. Old comb is also more attractive to pests and can harbour disease.

Remember that old wax must be disposed of properly or ideally should be processed as a valuable product of the hive.

I hope you have spare equipment on hand in case you need to do a split to control swarming or to hive a swarm. I've already heard of a couple of swarms this season.

Beekeeping is local— conditions vary from location to location. I had a report from a beekeeper in Bendigo who had an 8 frame deep filled with nectar in a week in early September. My hives in Camberwell have only put on 2 kilograms in the last 10 days.

If the bees don't have anywhere to put the nectar you not only miss the flow but you risk having the brood nest back-filled with nectar, the queen having nowhere to lay and increase the chance of your colony swarming. Know what is happening in *your* hives and have a great season.

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