



Beekeepers Association of the ACT

PO Box 1482, Woden, ACT, 2606

Newsletter of the Beekeepers Association of the ACT Incorporated

Website: www.actbeekeepers.asn.au

Meetings of the Beekeepers Association of the ACT Inc are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm at the CIT, Heysen Street, Weston in Building A

Contact: Association President – Dave Alden Ph: 62826908

Email: enquiries@actbeekeepers.asn.au

August 2006

Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th August at 7.30pm, at CIT Weston. The guest speaker will be Dr Carolyn Hawkins who is a Clinical Immunologist at The Canberra Hospital and a lecturer at the Australian National University. **Dr Hawkins will speak about Bee Stings and the Immune Response.**

As usual the meeting will begin with Beeginner's Corner, sharing beekeeping news and questions and the speaker will speak from about 7.45pm. There will be supper and time to chat after the meeting.

Mid Winter Dinner

About 30 members, family and friends enjoyed a pleasant evening of conversation and food at the midwinter dinner at Restaurant 83 Woden Tradesmen's Club. The empty super award was won by Dave Alden for his sterling efforts in landscaping and beekeeping. Entries are now open for this prestigious award next year. To enter write down your story of beekeeping experience and send it for publication in the newsletter.

President's Report

In the depths of winter it was great to see so many members enjoying swapping beekeeping stories at the Association's dinner. One story that did attract some attention was submitted by my partner, Elaine. It won me this year's Empty Super award. I'm sure it was because it was the only entry! I encourage all members to jot down submissions as they occur through the year and send them in for next year's award.

I'm also glad that, as usual, many members were joined at the dinner by members of their family. Having my family with me at the dinner certainly helps them put faces to the

names of members I mention after returning from our engaging monthly meetings.

As for future monthly meetings I'm sure members will be looking forward to our line-up of guest speakers. Dr Carolyn Hawkins will be speaking at our August meeting about bee stings. You'll recall that she was due to attend one of our meetings earlier in the year but had to postpone. In September Dr Dennis Anderson will be speaking to us about "The varroa and Tropilaelaps bee mites - two major threats to Australian beekeeping". Look out for future guest speakers.

With Spring only just around the corner I expect many members will be ensuring their equipment and hives are all ready for the coming honey-making season. I wish you well with your preparations!

Swarm Collecting

Members who would like to be included on a swarm list for the upcoming season should give their names to any committee member so a list can be prepared and given to appropriate agencies. Their names can also be included on the Association website. Members can also put their names on the Association website themselves. Environment ACT no longer maintain a swarm list as they did in the past. Rod West of Environment ACT has agreed to collect and pass on a swarm list if the Association prepares it. Please let a committee member know if you wish to be included on this list.

New Members

Welcome to Helen Kilborn, Rodney Palmer, Alex and Bob Humphreys. Hope to you are able to come to our next meeting.

Small Hive Beetle Forum

The Southern Tablelands Branch of the NSW Apiarists Association has kindly invited our members to attend a Small Hive Beetle Forum to be held on Saturday 19th August at the Collector Community Hall, Collector starting at approximately 11am till 3pm.

The Forum follows the meeting of the Southern Tablelands Branch and speakers will be Dr Doug Somerville, Dr Gary Levot and Bruce White. Entry is by a gold coin donation and food and drinks are available at reasonable rates.

Collector is about 50 km from Canberra on the Federal Highway.

In Bloom around Canberra

A number of unidentified eucalypts are blooming in Torrens and our bees seem to be doing quite well in collecting both nectar and pollen giving them a good start for spring. Many eucalypts are heavily budded and should bloom next season if sufficient rain falls to allow the buds to mature.



Drawing by Jenny Pearce

Information is sought from members about floral sources in town and surrounding areas. If you notice particular plants in flower please email me at editor@actbeekeepers.asn.au or call at 6286 2421. Lyn Shiels

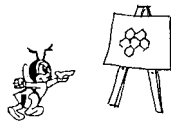
Beekeeping Courses.

The Backyard Beekeeping Course at the CIT School of Horticulture, Weston will begin on October 10th. The course consists of four evening theory sessions in the classroom and four Saturday morning practical sessions conducted at beehives located at the CIT, Weston.

Topics will include bee biology and behaviour, handling bees, getting started, equipment, seasonal activities, pests and diseases, and extracting. The course will provide beginning beekeepers with basic knowledge and some experience to start them in beekeeping. For enrolments phone CIT Solutions on 6207 4441.

Please promote [this](#) course to any new or potential beekeepers.

A Beekeeping [Course](#) for Beginners is also being conducted by NSW Department of Primary Industries at Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute Menangle-Camden NSW on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th September, 2006. The course, run by Des Cannon, covers a wide range of beekeeping topics and includes hands on experience with hives on site. For further information or bookings contact Lex or Maryke



(02) 4640 6333 or Mobile 0408 492 039, Fax: (02) 4640 6300 or email: maryke.hession@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Diseased Hive Material

American Foul Brood is a reportable disease under the Animal Diseases Act. Reports should go to Rod West at Environment ACT on Ph 62079777 or to Dr Will Andrew on 62072357. Diseased hive material may then be taken to the Totalcare ACT Government Incinerator, Sandford Street, Mitchell for disposal. Please tell Environment ACT before you take the material. Clearly label the beeproof packages "Diseased Bee Material". Infected boxes can be sent to Sydney for irradiation rather than destroyed but dead brood and dead bees should be incinerated. Old boxes and frames that are not worth preserving may also be incinerated.

Recipe Corner

Fig and Nut Muffins

Ingredients

- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 eggs lightly beaten
- 1 cup skim milk
- ¾ cup SR flour
- 1 cup wholemeal SR flour
- 2 teaspoons mixed spice
- ¾ cup dried figs, chopped
- ½ cup roughly chopped pecans or walnuts

Method

Preheat oven to 210°C. Combine oil, honey, eggs and milk in a jug. Sift the flours and mixed spice into a bowl. Added chopped figs and nuts and mix well. Pour dry ingredients into liquid and combine. Place in muffin pans and bake for 20mins or until golden.

Irradiation of Beehives

We send a load of hives to Steritech for irradiation as soon as we have enough to make a viable load. Please contact Lyn or Pat Shiels on Ph 62862421. Transport cost depends on the number of hives sent and is usually about \$6-\$7 per hive. The current cost of irradiation is \$22 for a triple and \$15.40 for a double. The total weight of each unit must be less than 25 kilograms and they must be double wrapped and double emlocked. We have some extra emlocks available to members to help with packing. NSW Agriculture publishes an Agnote detailing the wrapping required which can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/pr9pq>

If unsure about packaging or for emlocks please contact Lyn or Pat.



- Starter Kits
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