



Beekeepers Association of the ACT

PO Box 1482, Woden, ACT, 2606

Newsletter of the Beekeepers Association of the Australian Capital Territory Incorporated
Website: www.actbeekeepers.asn.au

Meetings of the Association are held on the second
Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm at the CIT, Purdie Street, Bruce, in Building H, Room HL22
Contact: President – Pat Shiels Ph: (02) 6286 2421
Email: enquiries@actbeekeepers.asn.au

August 2011

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Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 11th August 2011. “Show and Tell” is the theme so, please bring along your favorite or special gadgets for all to see and hear about. Also, there will be a presentation about managing hives as springtime approaches.

As usual, the Thursday meeting will commence at 7.30 pm with Beeginners' Corner. All are invited to stay for supper following the formal proceedings and the Committee's presentation.

President's Report

At our last meeting Life membership was bestowed on Edith Thompson, Peter Macnicol and Shirley and Peter Carden for service to the Association. Congratulations and good wishes.

At our next meeting Dick Johnston will be giving a talk on Spring Management. As spring is near and the days are warming up and the trees and shrubs are starting to bloom we will need to be ready. Also we will be showing gadgets that we use around our hives so if you any invention you use please bring it along.

There are a few places left in the course on pests and diseases, so if you are interested please contact Dick on 62828112. Enrolments are open for the next lot of backyard bee keeping courses starting in October. Contact C.I.T. Solutions at Bruce campus.

Volunteers are being called for to go to Cairns to help with the eradication of the Asian Bee more details will be in the newsletter and at the next meeting.

Pat Shiels

Shine Dome Display

The Australian Academy of Science's Shine Dome is having a free open day on Saturday August 13th and this year the theme is food chemistry. As well as displaying Academy memorabilia, scientific displays and food chemistry related information for children. They are having various outside displays that are related to this topic. We've been asked if the association would be interested in having a small information stall on the day.

The Academy will provide a space and tables etc. David Guez (a bee researcher from ANU) might also be able to help out. People who came to the Parliament House breakfast might remember David and Carol being there with their three small girls.

We will take a couple of our display boards and some of our pamphlets and some honey tasting. We may take the live bee display if it is warm enough to remove bees from a hive safely. Pat and Lyn will be there and we would need a few other members to come for part of the time. New members would be most welcome. An exhaustive knowledge of bees and beekeeping is not necessary.

The hours are between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 13th August. If you are able to help for an hour or so please phone Pat or Lyn on 62862421 or see them at the meeting.

ACT Beekeepers Association's Backyard Beekeeping courses

Three courses are scheduled with the CIT running over four Saturday mornings:

15 October 2011

19 November 2011

7 January 2012.

Details of the first two courses are at:

http://www.actbeekeepers.asn.au/pdfs/2011_courses.pdf

Honeybee R&D News

Small Hive Beetle biology providing control options

This project aimed to improve our understanding of several biological and behavioural features of SHB. Temperatures of ≤ 15 and $\geq 45^{\circ}\text{C}$ prevent SHB ovipositing and also kill SHB eggs. Relative humidity of 34% kills SHB eggs. Strong hives attract more SHB than weak hives. Bee colonies become vulnerable to SHB when bee numbers decline.

Most daily flight activity occurred in the 2 hours prior to nightfall. Over 13 times more SHB were going into the hives than leaving, and the highest level of movements observed occurred in the months of October, April and May. At higher temperatures more SHB were found outside the hives, with the average maximum in February of 44%. In the trial environment SHB population numbers appeared to follow an annual cyclic pattern, peaking in late autumn and bottoming 6 months later. The different washing techniques tried made no difference to the recovery of slimed combs.

This project has provided environmental thresholds that can be used in the honey shed to control and prevent SHB damage. It has also identified SHB population information that can be used in integrated pest management strategies for improved outcomes. For the apiarist there is the knowledge that stronger hives are less susceptible to SHB damage, and that slimed frames can be recovered but the cleaning methods tried for slimed combs were a waste of time – bees can do it themselves.

Source: *Honeybee R&D News No.10 July 2011 11/077*

www.rirdc.gov.au

Cinnamon and Honey

Honey is the only food on the planet that will not spoil or rot. It will do what some call turning to sugar. In reality honey is always honey. However, when left in a cool dark place for a long time it will do what I rather call "crystallizing". When this happens I loosen the lid, boil some water, and sit the honey container in the hot water, turn off the heat and let it liquefy. It is then as good as it ever was. Never boil honey or put it in a microwave. To do so will kill the enzymes in the honey. Bet the drug companies won't like this one getting around.

Today's science says that even though honey is sweet, if taken in the right dosage as a medicine, it does not harm diabetic patients. Weekly World News, a magazine in Canada, in its issue dated 17th January 1995 has given the following list of diseases that can be cured by honey and cinnamon as researched by western scientists.

UPSET STOMACH: Honey taken with cinnamon powder cures stomach ache and also clears stomach ulcers from the root.

LONGEVITY: Tea made with honey and cinnamon powder, when taken regularly arrests the ravages of old age. Take 4 spoons of honey, 1 spoon of cinnamon powder and 3 cups of water and boil to make like tea. Drink 1/4 cup, 3 to 4 times a day. It keeps the skin fresh and soft and arrests old age.

Life spans also increases and even a 100 year old, starts performing the chores of a 20-year-old.

Source: <http://www.angelfire.com/az/sthurston/honeyandcinnamon.html>

Peter Friend

ACT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION TEA ROSTER

** Please take the cups and urn home after the monthly general meeting; cups to be washed. Please return at the next monthly meeting. If unable to attend the following meeting please take the cups and urn to the President's house.

** If there are two sets of names on one month, one takes cups the other takes the urn.

** The President will supply tea, Coffee, Milk and biscuits and cost will be paid from the association account.

** If anyone would like to contribute a cake or other items please feel free to bring along some goodies to our meeting. Reimbursed cost of course.

August 11th Paul Zarb

September 8th John and Anne Grubb

October 13th Rob Shorrock

November 10th Stuart Robinson

December 8th Mary-Louise Weight

The dates are when you take the cups home



REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Federal Council of Australian Apiarists Associations is now co-ordinating volunteers to assist with efforts to contain the Asian Bee in Cairns in the hope that we will again be able to ask the question “is the bee eradicable?” as we move through the containment program.

Who is needed?

Those with knowledge of keeping bees, commercial beekeepers, amateur beekeepers, retired beekeepers and their partners.

Can you help?

If you are willing to donate some of your time in Cairns there are a range of tasks that can be matched to your skills. Tasks being undertaken include working with Biosecurity Qld officers to find Asian bee nests, sweep netting to determine where they are, talking to the public, preparing bait stations and many other important tasks required to support the program staff. Tasks are being matched to the skills and experience of the volunteers. Training and support is provided.

Time needed?

Minimum one week, up to a few weeks. Due to the commercial beekeeping season commencing one week blocks are currently being organised. If you are available for more than a week your skills can be accommodated for longer periods. As now is a busy period we recognise commercial beekeepers will have difficulty getting away for longer periods so any help from the amateur sector is greatly appreciated and valued.

Costs?

Volunteers are covering their own airfares and meals. The FCAAA are covering the cost of basic accommodation in shared rooms of up to 4 people. We have set up a booking system for airfares and Billy Weiss can advise how this works.

What's in it for you?

Volunteers to date have found the exercise really useful in gaining a first hand insight into the problem in Cairns and have returned with a resolve to be as active as possible in preventing this pest from establishing itself and impacting on the wider industry. By volunteering you will feel like you have done what you can to protect your future and the future of our industry and you will build contacts and friendships with other beekeepers.

If you can help please contact:

Billy Weiss – President

0428 669 578 or by email beeweiss@gmail.com

www.securefoodssavebees.com

Bees as trading stock in ancient Wales

During 2007, the Australian Taxation Commission struggled with the concept of whether bees were 'live-stock' for the purposes of valuing (business) stock on hand at the end of a tax year. If bees were to be classed as trading stock, then how would a tax assessor value them? For example, in defining the term 'hive', the ATO had to decide what components to include in the definition – did the market value of a 'working' hive lie in the entirety of the wooden components, worker bees, drones, queen, wax, or a combination of these elements, or just the critical elements of a queen and a nucleus of worker bees?

In late 2008, the ATO issued a determination, which decided, amongst other things, that bees were livestock when used in primary production. The value of the 'live hive' was determined to lie in the queen bee and the 'nucleus' (\$9). Workers and drones were found to have nil value, partly due to their relatively short life spans.

Interestingly, the Welsh had first struggled with these concepts in the mid 10th century, when they had a go at writing down their existing customary (oral) laws. The written laws, *Cyfraith Hywel* or 'Laws of Hywel Dda', were named after the Welsh ruler of that time, Hywel the Good.



(<http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=lawsofhyweldda>)

One purpose of the written law was to ascribe values to certain types of domesticated animals, such as dogs, geese, hens, cats, horses, pigs, sheep, oxen, cows, horses and bees. Scholars believe this was done to ensure that disputes about compensation for damage or injury to these animals could be settled efficiently and fairly.

The above portrait of Hywel the Good is taken from a 13th century version of the Laws, as is the extracted Latin text relating to bees (see the drawing of bees swarming!!), which defines the values for bees as:

A mother-colony of bees, that is a *modrydaf*, is worth 24 denarii; the first swarm, 16 denarii; the second swarm, 12 denarii; the third swarm, 8 denarii; the first swarm from the first swarm, 12 denarii; the first swarm from the second swarm, 8 denarii; A mother colony of bees is worth 20 denarii after the first swarm has flown; after the second, 16 denarii; after the third, 12 denarii.

I find it quite interesting that the Welsh recognised and took account of multiple swarming in their valuation system, including the impact that this had on the asset value to the beekeeper of the remaining hive. For comparison of values, 24 denarii was also the value of a 12 month old horse and of 6 full grown sheep, reflecting, as we beekeepers all know, the economic value of a 'working' hive.

Angie O'Neil

Abstract

The buds of *Eucalyptus regnans* are protected by an operculine involucre for 12 months and develop as exposed umbels for a further 15-17 months. The flowering period is about 3 months but the extreme range is from late February to early July at elevations of 600-750 m. Flowers remain open for 1-2 weeks. Older trees tend to flower later than younger trees on the same site. Chiefly insects and birds probably effect pollination.

Flowering abundance follows a 2-year cycle with a tendency for heavier production every fourth year, but this pattern may be interrupted by severe insect attack on young shoots. Considerable losses occur at all stages of development owing to abscission, and to damage by gall and other insects. Quantitative estimates of flowering from litter trays indicate that the flower production of good years may be 25-65 times as great as in poor years. The mature forest produced 2.15-15.5 times as many flowers as the pole stage trees, and 1.5-10 times as many as the spar stage forest. Estimates of the fruit set following the late autumn flowering of 1954 indicate that that of the mature forest was 1.6 times as great as that in the spar stage forest and 3.5 times as great as that in the pole stage forest.

The corresponding relative flower abundance in these forests was 1.5 and 3.8 respectively. However, the percentage of flowers setting fruit from the early autumn flowering of 1956 was very much lower. Most capsules abscind or dehisce or fall attached to twigs within 3 years of their maturity. The quantitative estimate of flowering and fruit set permits seed crops from heavy flowering to be forecast a few years ahead of seed fall.

Source: *Australian Journal of Botany* 23 (3) 399 - 411

Paul Zarb

Classifieds

Wanted to Buy: Honey Extractor

I want to buy a honey extractor. Please phone Gordon on 0413 655 555.

For sale:

5 frame nucleus hives.

Price: \$130.00 plus GST.

Includes carry box.

Great for a new start, free from AFB, EFB, SHB etc.

These hives are suitable for the suburban environment and also for commercial applications.

Contact Stephen Heatley

Kangaroo Island Queen Bees

By email: kiqueenbees@hotmail.com or (08) 8559 5045.

Contributions for future Newsletters may be forwarded either by email to the editor@actbeekeepers.asn.au or by snail mail to 28 Postle Circuit HOLT ACT 2615



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