



Beekeepers Association of the ACT

Newsletter of the Beekeepers Association of the Australian Capital Territory
Incorporated

Meetings of our Association are conducted on the 3rd Thursday of every month (except December) at the Yarralumla Primary School Hall, 24 Loftus Street, YARRALUMLA, ACT 2600

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<https://www.facebook.com/BeekeepersAssociationoftheACT>

Next Meeting

April 2016

President's Report

AGM Ballot

Angry Asian Hornet

Medicinal Honey

Native Bees

Classifieds

Monthly meeting: 21 April 2016, Yarralumla Primary School at 7:30pm

AGENDA

1930 Introduction & Welcome– President (John Grubb).

1935 Annual General Meeting – election of committee members

2015 Canberra Show Chief Steward, Lyn Shiels, will give us some hints on preparing entries for the show.

2030 Networking (light supper)

2100 Meeting close

Steve O'Hearn Secretary (0408) 657 871

President's Report

Dear Members,

It is with mixed feelings that I pen my last President's report. I have had the pleasure of holding this position for approximately three and a half years. My first thoughts are on how quickly that time has passed and how our Association has grown, not only in membership, but in terms of offering greater benefits in a number of different areas. In addition to my responsibilities as President, in April 2015, I undertook the role of Training Manager when Dick Johnston who, for 13 years managed and administered the Backyard Beekeeping courses at Bruce CIT, hung up his training hive tool!

Discharging both positions, has to say the least been quite demanding on one's time. However, managing the Association's affairs can only be effectively undertaken through the support and direct involvement of your committee and other key members in the Association. To those members who supported me over my period as President I am most grateful. In particular, I wish to thank and recognise our group of training tutors who have so willingly given up their personal time to support our CIT training program. While I am reluctant to identify particular members, there are a number of individuals whose contribution to our Association very much merit acknowledgement.

In particular, I personally thank Dick Johnston for his tireless support not only as Treasurer (since Adam was a boy), but in all Association related matters. My sincere thanks to Steve O'Hearn who fulfilled his role as Secretary in the most effective manner and to my great appreciation, became involved in all aspects of administering the Association's affairs and made my role as President so much easier to fulfil. I also wish to acknowledge Jeff Matsen, whose energy and drive in assuming responsibility for the hive

management of the Bruce CIT apiary has no bounds. Jeff was also the driving force behind the establishment and on going management of the Association's first class apiary at JWTC; thank you, Jeff. Jon Justin has also tirelessly worked behind the scenes. Since he relinquished the Webmaster role, Jon has continued to provide IT support to our current webmaster Thomas Poole. Jon's support and expertise in respect of developing and running the CIT courses & JWTC has been invaluable. More recently, he introduced a computerised training course booking system along with Pay Pal & Credit/Debit card payment systems to collect training course fees plus conduct on-line surveys and various other on-line forms based information gathering projects. In addition, I wish to thank Dermot Asis Sha Non for his support to me within and outside the Committee. To his credit, Dermot has always been prepared to push the boundaries to the betterment of the Association and I am most grateful for his constructive ideas and the enthusiasm he has conveyed.

For taking on the role of Webmaster, my sincere thanks to Thomas Poole This is yet another function that goes on quietly behind the scenes. Thomas has modernised the website improving the site's functionality and maintainability. While no longer on the committee, I thank Mary-Louise Weight for her time as Newsletter editor which she fulfilled for a number of years without missing a deadline despite increasing demands on her personal time. The newsletter, in my opinion, remains an important means of communication for Association matters and events to our members. I am therefore most grateful to Juli Poole and Stuart Robertson who volunteered to take over from Mary-Louise in this role; thank you both. I also wish to recognise Lyn Shiel's stewardship of the Association's presence, year after year, at the Royal Canberra Show. Lyn is also the Association's librarian and the time and effort she gives to this important function is very much appreciated. I am also most grateful to Mitch Pearce, our Vice President, Mike Devey and Myron Van der Waerden for their participation as committee members over the past year. In particular, thank you Mitch for facilitating Beginner's Corner at our monthly meetings.

Last but by no means least, I wish to thank and acknowledge those members whose support to our organisation often goes unrecognised. I refer to those functions relating to the storage and hire of Association equipment, the management of the irradiation service provided to our members and the provision of our 'after meeting' supper. To all of you involved, my sincere thanks.

Today, we have a Training Centre at Jerrabomberra Wetlands (JWTC) courtesy of the ACT Government. This site and the associated facilities provide our Association with the potential to offer you, our members, with the opportunity to undertake a variety of beekeeping related courses. In addition, it is my hope that the training centre will be used to educate the wider Canberra community on beekeeping and how to better protect our honey and native bees. We now have an apiary that is first class and situated so close to the city centre, another plus for our garden city of Canberra.

In stepping down, I am confident that our Association will continue to go from strength to strength. I am not so much concerned in increasing the membership base, though I think this will occur noting the level of community interest in bees and beekeeping. My hope is that the Association can continue to support our members in a meaningful and relevant way.

I look forward to our April meeting which will start with our AGM. This will be an important evening as we vote in a new committee. Details of the nominees have been conveyed to you with the intent of making the voting process more straight forward than we experienced last year. My thanks to all those members who have submitted a nomination. I look forward to meeting many of you on the night.

Regards,

John Grubb, President

AGM Committee Ballot

On Thursday 21st April 2016, 7:30pm at the Yarralumla Primary School we will be conducting the Annual General Meeting and to elect a replacement committee of enthusiastic members to take us forward into 2017.

At that meeting, a ballot will be held by 'show of hands' together with any pre-submitted proxy votes.

Only financial members will be eligible to vote.

Each member or Family membership is entitled to a single vote for each position.

The voting system will be 'first past the post', the most votes wins.

Please vote if you are keen to see the Association progress.

Nominees

Cormac Farrell - Nominee for President

Roland Inman - Nominee for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Training Manager, Assistant Hive Manager or Events Coordinator

Mitchell Pearce - Nominee for Vice President or Events Coordinator

Frank Derwent - Nominee for Vice President, Training Manager, Products Manager, Assistant Hive or Assistant Training

Steve O'Hearn – Nominee for Secretary

Jon Justin - Nominee for Treasurer, Hive Manager, Training Manager, Assistant Hive, Assistant Training, Events Coordinator or Webmaster

Jeff Matsen - Nominee for Hive Manager

John Grubb - Nominee for Training Manager

Alan Wade - Nominee for Products Manager

Sarah Asls Sha'Non - Nominee for Products Manager or Events Coordinator

Dermot Asls Sha'Non - Nominee for Assistant Training Manager

Greg Bates - Nominee for Assistant Hive Manager or Assistant Training Manager

Stephaine Wong - Nominee for Assistant Hive Manager or Events Coordinator

Angry Asian Hornet



The Asian Hornet is now in France, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Italy and Germany; and, as Mitchell Pearce found out, also in South Korea! Queens emerge in the spring and raise a few workers. When a good food source is found, the colony relocates to within 1-2 km of that and then grows large. Honey bees form some 50% of their diet. Hornets 'stack' outside hive entrances at different levels. They do not enter colonies but 'hawk' outside them, catching returning foragers on the wing. This inhibits foraging!

In October 2014, NBU pest control and Wildlife teams visited Andernos-les-Bains, a small town near in Bordeaux, France. The hornet has had a devastating effect; beekeepers are reporting honey harvests going down from 50kg to 10kg. To fight it, they employ a 'cherry-picker' and half a man's time. Nests cannot be tackled in daylight but at dawn, adding difficulty. When first encountered, there were 4 nests in the area; last year there were 100. Because sulphur dioxide is used in the wine trade, it is available, but it could not be used in the UK. There, it is injected into a nest using a lance, a far from easy task in semi gloom; it adds to the difficulty that 20% of nests are above 20 metres, one was 28 m high.

The rate of predation is such that, where there are hornets, beekeeping may become impossible.

For further information and instructions on making a suitable trap see:

The NBUs BeeBase website: www.nationalbeeunit.com

An ID sheet for the Asian hornet: www.nonnativespecies.org

Taken from page 14 Essex Beekeeper November 2015

Here's how honey can heal your surgical wounds faster

Since ancient times honey has been known to possess *antimicrobial property as well as wound-healing activity*. In other words, it prevents infections, is very effective in fighting off existing infections but also boosts the wound healing process.

According to honey researchers clinical observations recorded are that:

- infection is rapidly cleared,
- inflammation, swelling and pain are quickly reduced,
- odour is reduced,
- sloughing of necrotic tissue is induced (casting off dead tissue),
- *granulation is accelerated (formation of new connective tissue and tiny blood vessels on the wound surface),*
- and epithelialization is quickened (the process that covers a wound with epithelial tissue which is the white and pink tissue / the outside layer of cells that covers all the free, open surfaces of the body including the skin, and mucous membranes),
- no pain during dressing changes and no tearing away of newly formed tissue,
- and healing occurs rapidly with minimal scarring.

Several researchers have noted on honey dressings ability to speed healing.

- Descottes mentions *"wounds becoming closed in a spectacular fashion in 90% of cases, sometimes in a few days"*.
- Blomfield suggests that *"honey promotes healing of ulcers and burns better than any other local application used before"*.

Source: Waikato University, [Honey Research Unit](#)

These pretty native bees are important pollinators for Australian crops



Native blue-banded bees. (Credit: [Fish Fidler/Flickr](#))

THIS HAS TO BE one of the prettiest bees in the world. Named for the beautiful turquoise bands that run across its abdomen, the blue-banded bee (*Amegilla cingulate*) sports a lush golden and white fluff, enormous green eyes, and tan-coloured wings that look like crisp layers of cellophane.

Males can be distinguished from females by the number of blue bands they display - males have five while the females have just four. Adult blue-banded bees typically grow to between 10mm and 12mm.

The species is found all over Australia, except in Tasmania and the Northern Territory. It's also native to Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, East Timor, Malaysia, and India, so it enjoys a pretty healthy range, spreading out everywhere from urban areas to open fields and dense, tropical forests.

It's rumoured they're attracted to blue and purple flowers, perhaps because they could blend into their surroundings when collecting pollen from them, but this has yet to be proven.

They are known to frequent lavender plants, however, and [according to the Australian Museum](#), they appear to be attracted to people in blue clothing. But it's cool because these bees are non-abrasive, and don't move around in intimidating swarms like other species, they live solitary lives in little burrows in the soil or the crevices of rocks.

Blue-banded bees are one of a few native Australian bee species that perform a particular type of pollination known as 'buzz pollination'. Also known as sonication, this type of pollination is really useful on crops such as tomatoes, blueberries, cranberries, kiwi fruit, eggplants and chilies, but the well-known and very common [western honey bee](#) (*Apis mellifera*), is incapable of performing this process. For this reason, the blue-banded bee is extremely valuable to Australian farmers.

A flower's stamen is its pollen-producing reproductive organ, and attached to the stamen is the anther, which is a one or two-lobed formation that holds onto the pollen. In some plants, the pollen is held so firmly by the anthers that it needs a little extra help breaking free, which is where solitary bees like the blue-banded bee come in handy.

These bees will grab onto the flower, and shake their entire bodies rapidly, causing both the flower and its anthers to vibrate. This shaking movement causes the pollen to be dislodged from the anther, and then be collected by the bee.

According to the University of Nevada's Leonard Lab in the US, [about 8 percent](#) of the world's plants need to be buzz pollinated in order to reproduce.

Becky Crew – Australian Geographic Sept 2014

Missing Wiring Board

One of our frame wiring boards is missing. If you know anything about this board, please contact Dick 6282 8112 or Stuart 0427 379 757.'

Our new website

It's all there in one handy location: information, news, forums and links. Register to take part in the forum discussions. It's so easy, someone registered during the last meeting on her phone!

[Have you taken a look yet?](#)

More photos and information from our [forum](#) at the [website](#) or [Facebook](#)

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<http://beekeepers.peacockmagazines.com>

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