



Beekeepers Association of the ACT

**Newsletter of the Beekeepers Association of the Australian Capital Territory
Incorporated**

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

Contact: President – Cormac Farrell (0422) 441 358

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www.actbeekeepers.asn.au

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

November 2016

Monthly meeting: 17 November 2016, Yarralumla Primary School at 7:30pm

AGENDA

1930 Introduction & Welcome: President (Cormac Farrell)

1935 Special General Meeting

2010 Beeginners Corner

2030 Networking (light supper)

2100 Meeting close

Steve O'Hearn Secretary (0408) 657 871

Next Meeting

President's Report

BAACTI

Training report

Royal Canberra Show

Top Bar & Warre hives

Native beekeeping

Visit from Stewart

What is propolis

Links to our websites

Classifieds

President's Report

Dear Members,

This month's meeting will be a special general meeting to consider two proposals which will have a significant influence on how the Association goes forward. We have two proposals to consider, with the first representing the consensus of a majority of committee members, and a second proposal that has been proposed by our Hive Manager.

Proposal 1 would allow members providing training courses to be paid, and would address two of the issues that are commonly being raised among the training group. Firstly, there is an issue of equity. Currently club members providing training do so on a voluntary basis, and only have their costs paid. In contrast, external trainers (who are not club members) are able to propose specific courses, and are normally paid up front to conduct these. Sometimes this is to the tune of several thousand dollars. I can understand how some trainers feel undervalued with this current situation. While we could simply not run these additional courses, they are often covering topics that are of significant interest to members.

The second issue relates to managing burnout and maintaining an active training roster. When the club was only a hundred or so members and beekeeping was a hobby for a relatively small number of people, running a training course once a year was adequate. I think that we can all

agree that urban beekeeping has changed pretty dramatically. With a greater appreciation of the plight of bees, the advent of natural beekeeping, and of course the runaway success of the Flow Hive backyard beekeeping is booming. Our courses fill up almost as soon as they go online, and instead of one course 1-2 times per year, we have multiple courses covering a wide range of topics. Allowing us to pay trainers is one way to manage burnout and encourage more people to step up. It would also allow us to take full advantage of the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Apiary.

Proposal 2 is an alternative approach that would restrict club activities to a not-for-profit, volunteer basis. This has been proposed by members who do not support the payment of trainers, and who would like the Association to stay true to a culture where members help each other without expectation of payment. The proposal has several parts, and also calls for a clearer delineation of commercial versus club membership. Business operations would also be limited to providing free advertisements in the newsletter.

Proposal 2 is supported by club members who feel that the best way to promote beekeeping in the ACT and region is for the Association to avoid any commercial entanglements.

To be clear: both proposals are workable. While they represent very different visions of where the club goes from here, both approaches are taken by a wide range of clubs across a wide range of pursuits. If they can make the various approaches work, so can we. That said, we can't really do both. You have to make a fairly fundamental choice on the direction of the Association, and for that reason we have called this special meeting to let members decide.

Both proposals raise a lot of questions in terms of direction and future management. While we don't need to have everything 100% sorted out for each proposal, the upcoming meeting is to allow the benefits and drawbacks of each approach to be discussed, and to allow members to make an informed choice. You have a vote to give you a voice - this is your Association, and your money. I would urge everyone to look past the emotion of the moment, and consider which path you feel most comfortable with.

Regards,

Cormac Farrell, President

Training Update

Move from Bruce CIT to Jerrabomberra Wetlands Apiary



Since the last report I am pleased to advise that the majority of the hives comprising the Bruce CIT apiary have been moved to JW and located within the Sheep Pen apiary (See attached photos). The outcome of this move is significant for the Association as it means that training activities can now be centred at JW. A couple of hives have been left at Bruce CIT to maintain a presence at the CIT should the need arise to utilise the Bruce campus for future training. I wish to thank Jon

Justin, Dermot and Sarah Asis Sha'nnon and Greg Bates for assisting in the hive relocation. I also wish to acknowledge Alan Wade's efforts in looking after the welfare of the hives.

CIT Courses on Backyard Beekeeping.



The second CIT beekeeping course was conducted on 29th October and 5th November. Much effort is involved in conducting these courses and I wish to thank those members involved in setting up, presenting and tutoring the students over the two Saturdays the training was conducted (See attached photo). Unfortunately, on the second Saturday (5 November) our Canberra weather was not conducive to holding practical sessions at our apiary. This outcome was most disappointing, however, arrangements have been

made to hold a further practical session for the students of Course 2. I wish to thank those members from our training team involved in supporting this additional commitment.

Course 3, to be conducted on Sat 26 November and Sat 3 December, is now fully booked.

John Grubb
Association Training Manager

Preparation for the Royal Canberra Show



The next Royal Canberra Show will be held from the 24th to 26th February 2017 at Exhibition Park, Canberra.

The schedule for entries is not yet available but I suggest that prospective exhibitors ring RNCAS office on (02) 6241 2478 or email admin@rncas.org.au and ask to be put on the mailing list for when the schedule is printed. If you entered anything in the Horticulture section last year you should automatically receive a schedule by mail. Office hours are from 8.30 to 4.30, Monday to Friday.

It is a good time now to be preparing entries for next year's Canberra show. Preparing honey ahead of time allows the air bubbles to settle out and the honey to be clear by show time. I would suggest that you overfill your jars slightly because as air bubbles rise the level will go down. You can also remove any tiny wax flakes or other debris with a spoon at show time.

Honey is judged mainly on flavour, aroma, density and clarity. Exhibitors are limited to one entry in each class except for mead where two entries will be allowed.

If you have some nice fine grained crystallised honey put aside a jar for entering. You might also like to have a go at making some creamed honey.

All honey class entries must be in standard 500 gram (375ml) glass jars with gold top lids. If you are unable to find jars contact Lyn Shiels on 6286 2421.

If you are planning to enter wax classes you could start now trying to produce the perfect wax block, set of six moulds or pair of candles. If the first efforts are not to your liking you will be able to melt them down and try again.

Wax should have clear, even colour and strong pleasant aroma. Blocks or moulds should be free from any faults, ripples or damage. Many problems can be avoided if the wax is cooled slowly. Wax entries may be polished gently with a soft cloth to remove minor imperfections

I hope some members will consider entering one or both of the collection classes. The honey collection might include honey from different sources, creamed honey, candied honey, flavoured or infused honey, honey on comb etc. The collection of products of the hive might include honey, wax products, cosmetics made using honey or wax or propolis, mead, cookery made with honey etc. Labelling with a small decorative descriptive label is an advantage.

Both of these classes are judged mainly on their decorative values so arrangement is important as is creativity and variety but the judges reserve the right to open items to check that they are as represented on the labels. Jars or containers may be any size so you don't need to have access to a large amount of honey or wax for these classes.

I will bring to the next meeting some copies of an article giving more detail about judges requirements but if I miss you there and you would like one give me a call on 6286 2421.

Lyn Shiels

Special Interest Groups

Top Bar and Warre Beekeeping

For more details contact Hive Manager, [Jeff Matsen](#), or Assistant Hive Manager, [Frank Derwent](#).

Special interest group on native bees

If you would like to participate in this group or make a suggestion, contact me at peterabbott@inet.net.au or on 0421 227 315.

Peter Abbott

Native Bee SIG Coordinator

Become a BAACTI hive buddy

Simply e-mail [Jeff Matsen](#) or [Frank Derwent](#) and ask to be placed on the e-mail distribution list for hive management activities. There's no specific time commitment, just come when you can and help out. No need to have any beekeeping experience. If there is enough interest, we may even be able to allocate a beehive for the year to a small group to look after under guidance - a great way to get hands on beekeeping experience if you do not have a hive at home.

Good beekeeping!

Jeff Matsen

Hive Manager

snow.gum@hotmail.com

A NEW BEEKEEPING MAGAZINE

Northern Bee Books, the publisher of Beekeepers Quarterly has just launched a new quarterly beekeeping magazine, "Natural Bee Husbandry".

As the name suggests this will be concentrating on the so-called sustainable beekeeping. It is edited by John Phipps, the editor of Beekeeping Quarterly.

The first edition has articles by several well-known UK advocates of this style of beekeeping- David Heaf, Dorian Pritchard, Phil Chandler and Gareth John. There are two other articles including one from our very own Tim Malfroy, an Australian commercial beekeeper with 300 colonies using Warré style hives but with removable combs, rather than the top bars which are normally a feature of this hive. This is driven by an Australian legal requirement, but the frames he uses have top and side bars, but do not have bottom bars.

The first edition only is available free on line:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/42a31e_d3d62bea76424b56b685e9aacfa19f69.pdf

Mike Rowbottom

Stewart from Somerton

A few members of the ACTBKA were pleased to catch up with Stewart Gould, Chairman of the Somerton Beekeepers Association. Stewart was captivated by Dick Johnson's Flowhive – his first encounter with the set-up. In the UK beekeepers are currently preparing for winter. Stewart explained the process to guard hives against the main predators; mice, badgers and woodpeckers! There have been recent sightings in the south of England of voracious Asian hornets, in addition to the European hornet. Both can invade hives to feed on bees and can destroy entire colonies. Stewart was amazed at Canberra's lack of disease and pollution, and especially enjoyed the taste of Dick's Curtin honey.

Stump and Thatch



These unusual tree trunk and thatch roof hives can be seen in rural parts of Ukraine more as a novelty design. But beekeeping is a serious part of the economy involving 700,000 people (1.5% of the population). Ukraine is the largest producer of honey in Europe and amongst the top five producers in the world. The international Apimondia meeting was held in the country in 2013 and a Ukrainian commercial beekeeper developed the first standard hive frame in 1814.

What is Propolis and How Does it Benefit Bees ?

Propolis is the soft, pliable and very sticky orange substance that gums all the hive parts together and stains your clothes during summer hive inspections. It is also the hard and brittle orange sealant that has to be cracked open in order to enter the hive during the Winter or early Spring. No wonder it goes by the name 'bee glue' ! Historically, it has been unpopular with beekeepers, who have tended to selectively breed the propolis trait out of their stock.

Derived from the Greek, propolis meaning something like 'before the city'. It is used by honey bees to cover almost every surface within the colony. In the established tree nest of a feral colony, the rough bark immediately surrounding the entrance is bitten away and a smooth layer of propolis is laid down. If the entrance itself is too large then the bees reduce its size using propolis. Within the nest cavity the walls are filled and smoothed out with propolis.

What is Propolis Made From ?

The distinguishing ingredient of propolis is an amalgam of resins derived from diverse local plants. Within temperate regions, poplar trees are a particularly favoured source, but pine, birch, elm, elder, beech and horse chestnut trees are also commonly used. Resin is collected from wounds on trunks and branches as well as from buds and young leaves.

Plant resins contain innumerable bioactive chemicals, including large numbers of flavanoids, terpenoids and phenolics. Many flavanoids have demonstrable antibacterial, antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties. Terpenoids are the volatile component responsible for the resinous odour. Honey bees utilise all these substances in their natural state without any subsequent chemical alteration.

Well over three hundred distinct chemicals have been identified in propolis samples. In addition to the categories already mentioned, these include sugars, hydrocarbons, vitamins and several trace elements. The exact chemical composition is dependent upon the resin sources. Nonetheless, anti-microbial properties of the final products are remarkably consistent around the world even when the exact constituents vary considerably.

An excerpt from an excellent and very comprehensive article courtesy of John Chambers, Warwickshire BKA



Our website: www.actbeekeepers.asn.au

It's all there in one handy location: information, news, forums and links. Register to take part in the forum discussions, ask a question or provide advice.

Have you taken a look?

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

Classifieds

Hi Beekeeping ACT,

I was wondering if there is a potential to organise volunteering opportunities for one of my clients. This would be a part of a Rehabilitation Program to assist my client overcome PTSD. My Client advises that beekeeping is a key interest of his and he currently owns the beekeeping suit and is fully trained. He has reported that he finds beekeeping therapeutic. He is currently able to complete two 2 hours shifts per week.

Please call Amber on [02 6113 1909](tel:0261131909) if you can help or know someone who might be able to help.

Thanks
Amber Nichols
Rehabilitation Services

Club caps

Members are entitled to **one FREE** club cap per subscription. Any member who hasn't received a club cap, and would like one, can pick one up at the Treasurer's table after the monthly meeting. **Additional caps are \$10 each.**



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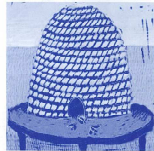
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The Beekeepers Quarterly



see a sample copy at

<http://beekeepers.peacockmagazines.com>

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