

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

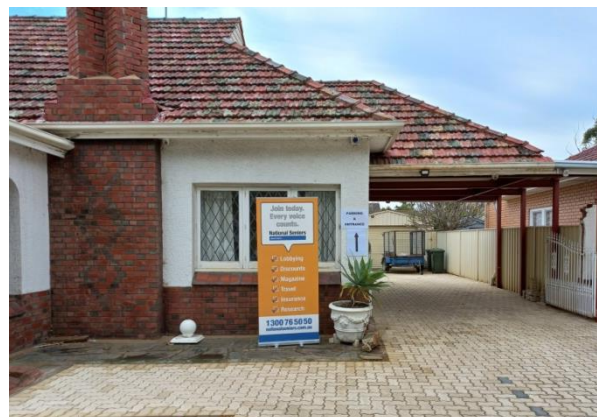
ADELAIDE NORTH-WEST BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

October, 2023

Meeting at 2 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at
Lockleys Baptist Church house,
244 Henley Beach Road, Underdale (pictured right)

Entrance & Parking - Drive through carport to rear of building



COMMITTEE

President Brian Mibus (0417 887701)
Vice-President .. Trevor Molde (0417 838740)
Secretary Kathy Hancock (0432 101372)
Treasurer Mavis Smith
Activities Coordinator Annie McCall
Committee Jeanette Molde
Newsletter..... Trish Mibus (0407 605091)

2023 CALENDAR

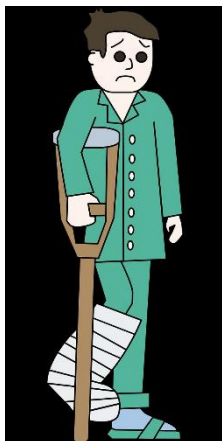
Our October Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023, 2 PM

**Guest Speakers – People’s Choice -
Internet Banking and Scams
plus Mataan Dunning - Finances**

Afternoon Tea – Annie McCall

Get Well Soon



Our thoughts are with Trevor and Janette Molde.

Trevor has been house-bound for several weeks after being injured in an accident and is unable to put weight on his foot.

Janette is his full-time nurse and is also house-bound.

We wish Trevor a speedy recovery and hope you will both be back in circulation soon.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023, 10.30 AM

Outing – – Charles Sturt Museum,
39D Jetty Street, Grange SA 5022 (adjacent to
Grange Primary School)

Lunch – Grange Café

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023, 10.30 AM

Botanical Gardens and lunch at café

2024

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024, 6.00 PM

'Beat the Heat' Dinner Meeting

Alberton Hotel, 124 Port Road, Alberton

Guest Speaker – To be advised

NOTES FROM OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

ROBERT BEER – BEE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Robert attended the Apimondia (International Beekeeping) Conference in Santiago, Chile in September 2023 – International Organisations meet for the benefit of bees.

Robert attended this conference in 2002 in South Africa, 2003 in Ireland and 2007 in Melbourne. Adelaide started going soon after 1977.

Chile includes the Andes from the south coast of Valparaiso up to the top of South America. He said he felt insecure in downtown Las Condes which was the business centre of Argentina, but is now derelict buildings not restored. It is not a financially rich country.

The Apimondia is held every two years in a host country talking about the aspects of bee keeping. This year there were 400 presentations held over 5 auditoriums.

1. Apitherapy – alternative form of medicine
2. Bee Biology
3. Bee Economy
4. Bees for Rural Development
5. Bee Health
6. Bee Technology and Quality
7. Pollination and Bee Flora

International Presidents meet regularly with a focus of interest on 5 regional counties – Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe, North and South America

An Expo started on the Monday with the Conference on Tuesday to Friday. The Expo was like a royal show with 160+ stall holders with large stalls. International suppliers of equipment, different countries, suppliers of chemicals, bee treatments.

Besides 100 speakers per day, The conference had areas of 300 posters of topics from companies selling wares. Robert's objective at the conference was to find out if there was a

way of treating the varroa mite without chemicals. There are 3 chemicals to choose from, but Robert doesn't like 2 of them as they leave a residue in the honey and wax.

America and Europe have the mite and in 2021-22 the mite cause the death of 65% of hives but these countries have lived with it and produced honey with those losses. The mite is now endemic to Australia and we have to manage it. If hives affected by the mite in Australia is less than 3%, we can live with it. To check affected hives, about 300 bees are caught in a container, put through an alcohol wash, which kills the bees. If these bees are taken from the centre of the brood and are carrying the mite we get a reading of the percentage.

The varroa mite wants fatty tissue of the lava. There is an egg, it hatches, larvae, 9 days to pupates. Worker bees hatch in 21 days and Drones in 24 days. The mite knows the difference and goes to the Drones.

Strategy to solve this problem is to put a frame in the bottom of the hive, cell size 6mm x 6 hexagons for Drones, can get predominantly Drones, or a wick at the top and bees will build it themselves – 7000 cells on one side of the frame for all Drones. Get 10,000 Drones before sealed, Queen lays 5 eggs per cell. 24 days Drones are deformed by the mite sucking out fatty tissue – deformed wing virus.

30,000 females x 5 eggs – circle of 10 days increase. If we test 300 with the alcohol wash, shake and filter = count of mites. 1-3 mites is OK, 3 mites is 1%, 9 mites is 3% or more and we lose the hive.

Honey is made and defined by floral source in Australian, in UK they cannot define the source. The Australian Government has the 3 chemicals ready to use.

Varroa mite has not been reported in South Australia yet. Bees cannot be moved from NSW and Victoria to pollinate almonds. Plant Health Australia has spent big money to stop varroa mite due to the almond industry. Victoria, NSW and SA will have the mite due to migrating hives to the almonds.

Feral colonies of European honey bees in trees, will swarm and travel across states. They will die out if they get the mite. They are used to pollinate the apple industry in the hills – 60% of hive loss expected. Hives 2-5 years later have resistance. Will breed from Queens from resistant bees.

Ventilated floors in hives (1884 Kangaroo Island introduced solid floors) will allow the drop of varroa mites from bees to the soil below (20%). This is starting to be done.

Otherwise feed the bees good nutrient, supplements of seaweed and pollen. Options are a variety of diet by different colours of pollen. Blue and purple coloured flowers are best to grow for bees.

Stringy Bark is grown in Deep Creek with some trees over 700 years old. They have flowered 3 times in 18 years, so are unreliable but good for honey. Cup Gum flowers every couple of years. Fruit trees also give good honey – citrus, lucerne, clover from orchards or sprinkler fields. Depending on what is flowering and where the bees are, gives the source to name the honey.

Salvation Jane used to be a good source bringing a premium price as it could be mixed with any other honey, giving light honey with blue gum, mid honey with red gum and dark honey with stringy bark, but unfortunately it is not around now.

Leabrook Farm Honey was at the Coopers Brewery but when it moved to Regency Park they sold the honey farm to Spring Gully.

Naturally granulated process – red gum – candied, sugar crystals joined, less moist. Creamed honey or candied honey with fine crystals, 1 part and whip it and add a light

honey of 4 parts to get creamed honey (air beaten into it).

Stringy Bark honey – have a spoonful per day for Asthma.

Bees Wax – caps the hone – taken off and clean to make bees wax used in face cream, furniture polish, sewing and boot threads, leather saddles, candles.

Monks were the first beekeepers, using the bees wax to make candles. Mix water and honey and ferment to make mead.

Bees pack pollen in cells, fan the hive, moisture is down 18% then they put on the wax cap. The honey is low in moisture, so glycerine is put in to weaken it.

There are hundreds of varieties of honey bees and 20,000 varieties of native bees in the world, with 2,000 in Australia, including the Bumble Bee in Tasmania. Kangaroo Island has Italian bees – Ligurian Bee – considered the purest in the world but have had to cross pollinate due to some dying.

Bees have roles

- Any bee will sting if it feels threatened. They are defending the hive.
- Worker bees have a barb on their sting.
- Queen bees have a hypodermic stinger and can sting more than once.
- Wasps can sting many time.
- Wasps and ants are cousins to bees.

Forest deforestation in Tasmania and NSW for timber and woodchip for particle board are removing bee habitats. Humans are bigger predators than the varroa mite. Migratory Beekeepers chase the honey flow, not good for producing bees. Chemicals and herbicides kill insects and bees. Organically grown fruit and vegetables are better for us and the bees.