

# Annual Conference 2013

The **2013 QBA Annual Conference** was hosted by the **Warwick Branch** and held on

**Thursday 13th & Friday 14th June 2013** at the Warwick RSL

with a **Field Day** on **Saturday 15th June** at Warwick Showgrounds

The Qld Beekeepers Association's 109th Annual Conference had over 80 beekeepers attend, not only from Qld but also from Interstate and overseas. A wide range of interesting and informative topics were delivered by several guest speakers.

The Conference was officially opened on Thursday by Councillor Peter Blundell, Mayor Southern Downs Regional Council.



## Conference Keynote Speaker **Dr Jerry Bromenshenk**

Dr Jerry Bromenshenk was born in 1946 and currently lives in Missoula, Montana, USA with his wife Gail. He received his PhD in insect ethology (behaviour) from Montana State University. His research focuses on insect behaviour, ecotoxicology, population dynamics and environmental chemistry. Jerry is developing a machine, initially to detect Varroa. One side benefit that became evident when working with the prototype was that

Jerry found that it was able to detect hives that had American foulbrood (AFB). Jerry had one of his latest prototypes at Conference and demonstrated it at the Field Day on the Saturday. To read the full article, click here - [Dr Jerry Bromenshenk- 2013 Conference Keynote Speaker](#)

Dr Jerry Bromenshenk shared his great enthusiasm and knowledge with the Conference. He began by delivering the Charles Roff Memorial Address with his lecture on **"Biosecurity and Bee Wellness"**. His other thought provoking and interesting lectures included a round-up on what is presently happening in the beekeeping industry in the USA, **"Testing for Hygienic Behaviour"**, training bees to detect land mines as well as explaining the use and capabilities of his hand held device that has the capability to detect American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) and other maladies of the hive, such as when queenless.



The cold and bleak winter's day in Warwick did not deter the interest, enthusiasm and questions of a large number of beekeepers at the Field Day as Dr Jerry showed and demonstrated the current version of his detection device that uses a probe in the hive entrance to record the wing beats of the bees in the hive. When calibrated, these readings can give positive indications of the health of the hive, such as the presence of AFB or queenless.



**Professor Ben Oldroyd** from the University of Sydney, delivered the Tony Knight address and spoke on the interesting and most relevant topic of "**Interspecific mating between *Apis cerana* and *Apis mellifera*: does it happen and what does it mean for the industry**". Ben is primarily interested in behavioural genetics and evolution of social behaviour and almost all of his research has been with honeybees. He has worked at the Sydney University since 1995 and prior to this, worked in other research labs in Australia and overseas.

Other Conference topics included:

- the new Qld Workplace, Health and Safety laws and regulations
- irradiating beekeeping equipment
- Flood & Public Liability Insurance
- remote monitoring of bee hives
- B-Qual, industry's quality assurance programme
- bee yard security with Outdoor Security Cameras
- the new national AFB/Biosecurity submission
- report on the new Qld DAFF Biosecurity Bill
- Cyber Crime explained (by Warwick Police)
- access to State Forests and current apiary site permit requirements

*View more information of the 2013 Conference -*

1. [Bush Telegraph Newspaper Reports and photos of the Conference and Field Day](#)  
*(published in the Bush Telegraph newspaper, Southern Downs, July 2013)*
2. [Annual Conference Programme \(2013 Conference programme\)](#)
3. [Conference Cooking With Honey Competition and Zucchini & Honey Recipe](#)  
*(Apiculture Competition schedule and Cooking Competition Recipe)*

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP to QBA**



Trevor Weatherhead (QBA President) had the honour to present **Life Membership to John & Judy Midgley** for their tireless work and generosity that they have given to the QBA over a long number of years. Congratulations!

*Judy Midgley, Trevor Weatherhead, John Midgley*