

MELBOURNE BREWERS NEWSLETTER



March 2015

From the Club President

G'day Brewers,

What a great few weeks we've had recently. Feb finished and March started with Beerfest in Kyneton, and Steinbrew happened with all its usual mirth and mayhem last weekend.

A big thanks to all who stepped up to help make Beerfest a success at the new venue. With me being out of the country for the majority of January and February we really needed a few extra hands on deck, and they did a magnificent job. Thanks to Richard for pulling all the threads together, to Jessie for doing an outstanding job of getting the beers organised on the day, and to Linton who came to the party to prove to us that with a change of venue we would be able to get the judges to come back to support a bigger competition than we had originally scoped.

And of course a massive thank you to Chris and Lucinda for letting us have run of the Royal George for the weekend. The space was brilliant for running the competition, and doubled up to serve as makeshift accommodation for the majority of us (except Angie and Lein who decided they needed their own little haven)

It was great to see Doug Blair out at the comp too - we even managed to get him to help out on a table judging! And at one stage we had six ex-presidents of the Melbourne Brewers in the one place: Doug, Haig, Martin O'Connor (yep - surprised me too!), Karl, Shane and I.

Unfortunately we missed the photo opportunity, but we did get one of four of us, which I'm going to call close enough.



And last weekend was Steinbrew - another big thanks to Linton for getting it organised (and bringing his fish smoker, an act which almost certainly guaranteed that no fish would be caught), and to Hans for bringing along the stove and being there to provide guidance as necessary.

Lastly a personal call out to all our members - our participation in brew competitions has been waning for some time now, and I'm really keen to see us lift our efforts on this front. There are a lot of great competitions coming up, so perfect opportunities to enter your beers and get some feedback on them (and possibly taking home the big prized, like John Hayman did at BeerFest!).

Let's all have a look at entering at least one beer in each competition this year - it provides a great drive to brew styles we might not otherwise brew, and a great reason to get the kit out when there's a lawn to be mowed (but honey, there's a competition Andy says I HAVE to enter coming up...)

May your brews be good brews,

Andy

Next Meeting
Wed 25th March
Pete's Warehouse Factory 11
12 Edina Rd Ferntree Gully
Mel Ref 73 K1

PURVIS
Cellars

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Suppliers of a wide range of local and imported beers.
Sponsor of the Melbourne Brewers Newsletter.

Ed: Andy's presidential vanity shot has been removed due to space restriction

Club News

Memberships

Annual memberships are overdue! Please help keep the club alive by getting your dues in to Pete.

Considering the subscription to BYO Magazine would run around \$45 a year with delivery to Australia, club membership is great value. You get eight issues of the magazine a year (pickup from the meetings), 11 meetings with social events, technical talks, giveaways, build days, brew comps, judging sessions, beer feedback AND there's those special events throughout the year – Steinbrew, the annual dinner – the list goes on!

BSB: **033337** Account Number: **182592**

Please put your name into the description field so that Pete can track the payment back to you. Possibly wouldn't hurt to shoot Pete an email too peterh@thebrewersden.com.au

Committee Contact Details

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Andy Davison | 9857 4723 |
| Vice President | Richard Whitebrook | 0435 596 060 |
| Secretary | Ashley McIntosh | |
| Treasurer | Peter Howell | 9761 1900 / 0414 612 737 |
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| Website | Steve Walker | 0404 448 172 |
| Competition Manager | Chris Duckworth | |
| Social Secretary | Angie Jenkins | |
| Sponsorship | Ian Tomlin | |
| Ordinary Member | Brett Schubert | |
| Very Ordinary Member | Linton Young | |

Hello there Melbourne Brewers, I'm Spiesy (Mark Spies) - one half of Full Pint. Full Pint kicked off in December 2013, when a great mate of mine (Andrew Cahir, otherwise known as Cahiry, or "Cocko" for those of you on AHB) and myself decided to combine our experience in wholesale and retail, with our passion - homebrew and all things craft beer. We saw an opening for a retailer to focus on strong online presence, rock-solid sales support and service and specialize in high-quality brew products and ingredients (we're not just another generic reseller).

Full Pint saw an amazing response from Australian brewers in our first 12-months, which we both humbled and motivated us. Every dollar earned went back into the business; expanding product lines, marketing and improving delivery and admin systems. Early 2015 sees us continuing to grow; hiring our first staff member, opening up a new warehouse, engaging more with local brewers (i.e. sponsoring local competitions) and hopefully drinking a lot of amazing beer along the way (fingers crossed)!

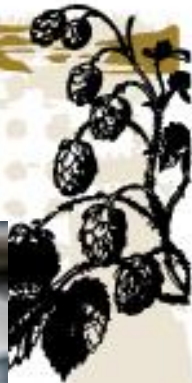
If Andrew or myself can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us - we'd love to hear from you.



As an introduction offer, we'd like to offer Melbourne Brewers a 5% discount on products purchased until 31st March 2015 - simply enter MELBREW as a coupon code, and watch our competitive prices get a little more competitive.

**LAST CHANCE
OFFER ENDS SOON**

BeerFest – The Pictorial



Steinbrew Rogues gallery



Ed Disclaimer: I did not Photoshop these images. I believe the camera was broken and has distorted the middle sections of most of the blokes that attended Steinbrew



Ed: Not looking so "presidential" now....more "daggy old bloke trying to be cool"



Ed: This box of equipment needs some explanation.....And I will leave the inflatable ring to you imaginations.



Meet the Brewer

This month's brewer is Chris Duckworth aka The Duck.

When did you join Melbourne Brewers?

I honestly do not recall... maybe May 2009? Either way it has been some great times.

What was your last brew?

I did a 2 batch day: US Pale Ale and a US Amber Ale.

What has been your best brewing experience?

Every brew day is the best brewing experience. It is my happy place and what I do to unwind from life. While not on autopilot, the process is relaxing and allows me to process events in the background, while allowing my creative side to focus on the brewing.

Best brewing result?

A Doppelbock that scored a first place at Vicbrew. I brewed it at my brothers place on a frigid June long weekend and was the first attempt at decoction, which I "de-coc'd up" pretty badly. I did not understand that you needed to boil the grains as well as the wort in a decoction, so I just boiled the wort for about 8 hours. But first place is first place, however you get there.

Worst brewing disaster?

Well there have been many. Being a Brew in a Bag brewer I have unfortunately had a few disasters. Several bag failures leading to Andy dubbing me the "Brew in a tube" guy. There have also been days of taps left open and lost wort, missed gravities, hardware failures and software (aka Me) failures but disasters are about learning and improving, rather than crying into your beer. Right guys?



Meet the Member

Continued from Page 3

What do you like best about homebrewing?

I love the experimentation. Style guides are great and help me to brew for competitions etc but I consistently think about what I can do that will be that little bit different to create new flavours, aromas, tastes etc. I think that every style had to have a bunch of people brewing it before it was recognised officially. Therefore every style had to start somewhere... maybe, just maybe I can be one of the pioneers of a new style.

Best beer related experience?

Aren't they all good? My recent trip to the US was pretty awesome. Access to freshly brewed (relative to what we get in Oz) beers as well as a massive array of imports was the stuff of dreams. 1-2 new beers every night for a month really helped to inspire the tastebuds and to leave me wondering how the brewers did it.

Do you have a name for your brewery?

Not yet. I am trying to let brewing speak to me and tell me what it should be called.

What do you do when you are not homebrewing?

I work in technology so I am usually tinkering with various things in my network at home.

I also think up recipes to brew and put them into Brewtoolz or think about past brews and what I would like to improve on each one.

Family comes into the equation as well which I try to balance with everything else.

Space filling Beer related Trivia...

2000BC – the first recorded drunk driving incident.

In ancient Egypt, an inebriated charioteer is apprehended after running down a vestal virgin of the goddess Hathor. The culprit is crucified on the door to the tavern that sold him the beer, and his corpse allowed to hang there until scavengers reduce it to bones.





Annual Club Dinner and Monster Brew Day

The Melbourne Brewers Annual Club dinner will be held late June - Date and venue to be confirmed.

Besides the beer that was brewed at Steinbrew, we need some additional brewers to volunteer some beer for the Club dinner.

So we are holding a MOSTER BREW DAY at Pete's warehouse on Sunday 12th April to make some brews for the club dinner.

We will need a range of beers so please co-ordinate with The Duck (Chris Duckworth) on what you may be planning so we don't double up on styles and so we have a range of beers to try and match with food for the dinner.

The dinner is also not limited to beers - you may also like to do a cider or a mead for the dinner.

We will do a sausage sizzle on the day, so you won't starve.

Remember that the club will reimburse your supplies (grain and hops) for the brew, so you are not out of pocket.

Calendar

Details of upcoming events (tentative)

| Month | Club Night Theme | Social/Other Events |
|-------|---|------------------------------|
| Mar | "Just turn up and drink beer" - 25/3 | Steinbrew date TBA |
| | | Ringwood Highland Games 30/3 |
| April | "Suffer through Andy's Pres report and drink beer" 29/4 | Monster Brew day 12/4 |

Ed: I took some liberties with theme names because blank squares with just dates are boring

Competitions

| Competition | When? | Run by? |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Belgian Beerfest | Saturday 18 th April 2015 | Yarra Valley Brewers |
| IPA Competition | Sunday, 24 th May, 2015 | Merri Mashers |
| Stout Extravaganza | Sunday 5 th July 2015 | Westgate Brewers |
| Pale-Ale Mania | Sunday 2 nd August 2015 | Worthogs |
| | | |



FREE BEER at the Ringwood Highland Games

Ringwood Highland Games is an Eastern Suburbs tradition dating back many years, The Eastern Suburbs was heavily populated by the Scottish in the founding years and has played a part in the shaping of this side of Melbourne, many street names are that of Scottish places and families.

The Highland games is a gathering of the clans such as would be seen in Scotland on a yearly basis (Such as the Edinburgh Tattoo) and have things such as;

Pipe Band Competition

Scottish Country Dancing

Highland Dancing

Dogs Flyball Competition

Light/Heavy Games (*Think Caber/gumboot tossing*)

Haggis Hurling

Scottish Martial Arts (*is that a headbutting competition?*)

Swordplay

Scottish Clan Tents

Childrens animal farm and activities

Range of hot and cold foods

Scottish Foods (*including new world Haggis*)

Stalls with Scottish and local goods

and now by popular appointment .

FREE BEER!!!

Tickets \$17 Adult

\$15 Concession

\$8 (6-18) Child

\$35 Family

I've been going every year since I moved to the Eastern Suburbs and it's a good afternoon out but was shocked and appalled by the lack of quality amber beverages available until this year when Melbourne Brewers has stepped up to turn a good event into a great one.

Big thanks to all involved and see the rest of you there. I know you'll all come as there is free beer 🍺

Jesse



Don't forget that the club library has many books on brewing all manner of beverages. By buying your books for friends and family online through The Book Depository and using the link on the club website, we get a small commission that helps fund our library expansion.





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