



Official Newsletter of the Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association Inc

President's Report

Greetings to all our Members!

Anyone who attended our Field Day on the 6th March will be aware of what an outstanding event it was with over 300 people attending. The speakers were first class and a lot of interest was shown in the presentation by Stuart Anderson and Darryl Ryan of the Flow Hive – its positive attributes and its challenges. My thanks to all members who came and pitched in to help with all the activities needed to make the day a success.

We had a good attendance of stall holders (apiary suppliers, native bees & craft items) The feedback was that they found the day both profitable and enjoyable.

Show season is upon us so its great to have our Members entering honey in the Apiary Section of various shows. The list of shows is in each newsletter.

We are heading into the autumn season, although from the weather it does not feel like it! The weather has led to a shortage of Queens' for members to buy through the club to re-queen their hives. So please if you have any concerns regarding proposed re-queening or autumn hive management, raise it at the next monthly meeting.

Cheers for now.
Benita Ironside

I&WMBA Committee 2015

Patron	Norm Hinton	
President	Benita Ironside	07 3201 0397
Vice President	George Pallot	07 3202 8332
Secretary	Noela Geeves	07 3281 4165
Treasurer	Mark Meerwald	0410 658 603
Committee	Phil Geeves	07 3282 3989
Committee	Beryl Salmond	07 3281 7613
Committee	Grahame Yates	07 3288 8238
Committee	Kellie Round	0407 114 513

Dates to Remember



- Club meeting 5th April
- Committee meeting 11th April
- Next Club meeting 3rd May
- Set up for Ipswich Show 12th May
- Ipswich Show. "Come along and help". 13th to 15th May
- Pack up Ipswich Show 16th May

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Club Meetings

The meetings of the Ipswich and West Moreton Beekeepers Association are held on the first Tuesday of each month (**except January**) at the W.G. Hayden Humanities Centre, Cnr. South and Nicholas Streets, Ipswich commencing at 7.30pm. **All welcome.**

Club Registration

Before Club meetings all members are required to pay a \$2.00 registration fee.

Club events are on the website calendar at <http://www.honey.org.au>

Queens

Due to the poor conditions and drone numbers in the breeding hives at present, the club is unable to provide Queens at this time. If you have ordered and paid for Queens a refund will be provided. At this stage we do not envisage we will have Queens available via the club until at least September or October this year. Please find below details of the local Queen Breeders. If you require Queens you may find these suppliers of use.

Queen Bee Suppliers		
Graham Beech	3139 Beaudesert-Nerang Road, Biddaddaba Q 4275	5564 5622 0437 179 261
Brett Dean,	PO Box 265, Gympie Q 4570 4309	5483 6606 0439 180 405
Dewar Apiaries	Lake Moogerah Road,MS 461, Kalbar Q 4309	5483 6606 0439 180 405
Howard Kirby	10 Cadiz Street, Bray Park Q 4500	3205 5178 0448 283 047
Morayfield Apiaries	27 Oakey Flat Road, Morayfield Q 4506	5498 6676 0427 807 973
Ken Olley	84 Logan Road, Clifton Q 4361	4697 3222 0427 876 875
Paul Marsh	Cadena Apiaries, PO Box 502, Sarina Q4737	4950 4225 0400 791 745
Denmar Apiaries	PO Box 99, Wondai Q 4606	4169 0064 0448 690 064
Covey Queens	Jimboomba Q 4280	0427 046 966
Barry Williams & Bruce Hibbert	36 Romar Road Glasshouse Mountains 4518	5493 0510 0428 300 365
Corrine Jordan	146 Fisher Road Carbrook	0400 833 017

Club Field Day review 2106



Without a doubt, this year's field day was the best I have attended. It was a great success, with over 320 people through the front gate on the day. After the Welcome and Formal opening by Jon Krause, the Member for Beaudesert, the sessions commenced with an informative industry update by Trevor Weatherhead. Following morning tea we were entertained by Howard Kirby who told us all about brood in his typical engaging style. Next up the session

from Stuart Anderson from Flow Hive filled the auditorium to capacity, with interest from both new and old beekeepers alike. After lunch we were off to the bees to watch Patricia Swift from Biosecurity QLD show us how to detect mites. An interesting use of icing sugar!! All our guest speakers this year were second to none and we want to send a big "thank you" to each and every one of them for helping make our day a success. Even the weather wasn't too hard on us, being a little cooler than of late. It was also great to see so many members of other clubs from the Gold Coast, Northern



Rivers, Sunshine Coast, Northside Beekeepers and Redlands and from as far away as Toowoomba and Dalby. Many thanks to everyone who attended, without you we couldn't make it a successful day. Also a very big thank you to Dimitri and his friends from the SES who put the tarp on the roof to block out the sun enabling us to see the screen. Many thanks to everyone from our own club that helped with the set up and cleanup on the day. The club would also like to thank our suppliers who set up trade displays on the day - they truly turn the day into an event. Special thanks to George and the team of "chefs" who had one of the toughest jobs of the day cooking on the BBQ! As always the Committee deserves praise for managing the whole event. See you all next year



Phil Corbett Editor

More Pictures on our Website.

Club Honey Competition

Club Honey Competition Results from the Club Meeting 1 st March 2016			
	First	Second	Third
Light Honey	Ken Freiberg	Philip Booth	Annette Isager
Golden Honey	Dave Hutton	Peter McDougall	Ian Workman
Dark Honey	Ken Freiberg	Phil Geeves	Noela Geeves
Beeswax block	Phil Corbett	Ken Freiberg	Mary Corbett
Thanks to the Judges Kellie Round and Stacy Krzewina and the steward Phil Geeves			

Field Day Results

Results for Ipswich Club Members in the Field Day honey competition <i>Thanks to Peter Warhurst for Judging and Phil Geeves for Stewarding the results</i>			
	First	Second	Third
Light Honey	Ken Freiberg	Frank Earley	Phil Corbett
Golden Honey	Ken Freiberg		
Dark Honey	Ken Freiberg	Noela Geeves	Phil Geeves
Comb Section in Honey	Albert Payne	Noela Geeves	Phil Geeves
Creamed Honey	Phil Geeves	Albert Payne	Ken Freiberg
Granulated Honey Fine		Albert Payne	
Granulated Honey Coarse	Phil Corbett	Albert Payne	Ken Freiberg
Beeswax	Mary Corbett	Phil Corbett	Albert Payne
Heaviest Frame	Albert Payne	Phil Geeves	Noela Geeves
Biscuits	Margaret Freiberg		Dimitri Markotsis
Muffins	Noela Geeves		Elizabeth Finney
We managed to hold onto the Inter-club Trophy			

Show Dates for 2016

The show schedule is now on our website notice board and in the website calendar.

Go to; <http://www.honey.org.au/index.php/upcoming-events>

Entry forms and schedules are available from each shows website. I noticed when setting up this list a couple of them are not yet up to date with their information for 2016. The Marburg site was down altogether at the time of printing this.

Marburg	6th to 7th May	www.marburgshow.com.au
Ipswich	13th to 15th May	www.ipswichshow.com.au
Esk	20th to 21st May	www.eskshow.com.au
Boonah	27th to 28th May	www.boonahshowsociety.org.au
Toogoolawah	3rd to 4th June	www.toogoolawahshowsociety.org.au
Lowood	10th to 11th June	www.lowoodshowsociety.com.au
Kalbar	17th to 18th June	www.kalbarshow.net.au
Rosewood	24th to 26th June	www.rosewoodshow.com
Redcliffe	24th to 26th June	www.redcliffeshow.org.au
Ekka	5th to 14th August	www.ekka.com.au
Beaudesert	2nd to 3rd September	www.beaudesertshow.org.au

Ipswich Show

The Ipswich Show is on this year from the 13th to the 15th April. The show is an important showcase for our club. As our local show we are again taking a stall to promote our club and honey. This show is the main fund raising activity for our club and goes to help pay for the club insurance and general running costs. The show involves a great deal of work and our stall needs to be staffed throughout the event. A roster for the 3 days will be organised at the April meeting. Club members are asked to volunteer a little of their time to support the club at this event

Nucleus (Nuc) hives

The committee has decided that as the club has limited capacity to create Nucs and demand outstrips supply, we are only able to offer them to newer members that do not have any bees. Club nucleus hives are \$85.00 each for a marked Queen, bees and 5 frames. The Nuc boxes must be returned promptly. Please see Kellie if you are interested in a Nuc, and your name will be put on our waiting list.



Note: If you order a nucleus hive, please ensure you are prepared for its arrival shortly after. You may need a full size box that has been dipped and painted as well as frames with foundation to make up the appropriate number of frames to fill the hive. *This is the minimum you would need*, please talk to us if you have any doubts about what else you require.

Kellie Round [email: malkelliem8@bigpond.com](mailto:malkelliem8@bigpond.com) Tel: 0407 114 513

Club Meeting – 5th April

The Guest Speaker for the this month will be Trevor Weatherhead. Trevor will be talking on showing and judging honey. It is timely with all the local show starting. Get some hints and enter your honey in the local shows.

Bee Pics



Syd Qualischefski gave shared these.
A couple of pictures of bees showing how resourceful they can be creating a hive under a hive!



Grahame Yates in his Apiary.
Now this is how you build the Eiffel Tower, 7 boxes high!
I think he is waiting for the cherry picker.

Flora in April

In April we should be seeing Broad-Leaved Ironbark, Brown Bloodwood, Gum Topped Box, Molly Red Box, Mountain Coolibah, Paper, Barked Tea Tree, Pumpkin, White Box, Caley's Ironbark, Blackbutt.

Defensive Bees

At almost every meeting for the past few months, and again at the field day, the subject of this season's bees being particularly **aggressive** has been raised. Following a visit to my apiary this week, where I had to make a rather undignified exit due to the combination of aggressive bees and a small hole in my veil, I thought perhaps a bit of research would bee in order. The first thing I came across is that the term aggressive is not really right, as the bees are typically being defensive; bees are rarely aggressors.

Factors that impact on how sensitive bees are to our intrusions include.

Queenlessness is frequently a cause of feisty bees. This happens if the hive has swarmed or the Queen has died or been killed. The bad behaviour usually stops as soon as the colony or the beekeeper replaces the queen. A colony that supersedes the Queen sometimes can result in more defensive bees. That's because you have no guarantee of the new genetics. The new Queen mated with drones from goodness knows where. Her

offspring may not be as nice as the carefully engineered genetics provided by your bee supplier. When this happens, order a marked and mated queen (if available) from your supplier to replace the Queen that is now in your hive. Another possibility is a **shortage of nectar-producing flowers** "nectar dearth". The bees can't find nectar so they often try to steal it from other hives. This begins a behaviour known as robbing. Look carefully, if robbing is going on, you will see bees fighting with each other at the hive entrance. The ground in front of the hive may be littered with dead honeybees. Robbing bees are more defensive than normal. Also, **incorrect use of the smoker** (or lack of use) result in irritable colonies (see side bar).

Bees take about 5 minutes to respond to smoke, so if you puff the smoker and immediately open the hive, many of the 20,000 to 40,000 bees may not be affected by the smoke.

Solution - puff smoke into the entrance and under the lid, then step back and wait for 5 minutes. Direct your smoke to the guard bees at the entrance first. If these become aroused and aggressive, no amount of smoke will calm the colony.

How much smoke?

A common mistake is to use too much. 2-3 puffs is all that is needed.

Rainy weather, especially when it comes with heat and high humidity, makes bees cranky as well. During the worst days of summer no amount of fanning helps cool the hive.

A newly established colony almost always starts out gentle. As the colony grows in size and the season progresses, the bees become more protective of their honey stores. Likewise, a growing colony means many more bees for you to deal with.

Following robbing your hives, if you spill honey ants and other pests are drawn to the hive generally making your bees more defensive.

Make sure the bees have access to **water, ideally two or three different sources so that they are not defending water supplies.**

Another idea I came across was to move the so called aggressive hive away from its site about 30 or 40 meters, leaving the brood box where it is. Go back about an hour later and the bees will have mostly moved back to the brood box and you can rob the super. Remember to put it back afterwards. If you get stung in your bee suit a few times wash it, or the pheromones on it will cause the same thing to happen again next time.

Hope this helps Cheers Phil C

Regular Items

Library Notice

Library books and DVDs are able to be borrowed for one month at a time. If you wish to keep the book, or DVD for another month, bring it back and it can be re-issued to you. Any books or DVDs lost or damaged will need to be paid for by the borrower.



Club shirts, badges and caps

If any members of the club are interested in having a club shirt and/or badge please see Secretary Noela. The price of shirts is \$18.00 and the badge is now only \$4.00.

Support those who support you.

Our club has been very fortunate to benefit from the generosity of both Noel Hutchinson of Quality Beekeeping Supplies (3376 5404) and Rod Palmer at C.B. Palmer and Co (0417 796 257). Please remember these very good friends when you require Apiary supplies. Also don't forget that should you require troughs to make your own beetle trap bottom boards Lou Uljarevic (07 5465 8130) still has them available. As always many thanks also to Councillor Bruce Casos for photocopying our newsletter.

Wiring Board

Just a reminder the club has available for loan to members a wiring board, a box to make frames up in and an embedder to put the wax on the frames. Our continued thanks to Noel Scholz for these items.



Extracting van for hire

Should any member wish to hire the club van please contact Peter Anderson on 3800 3562 to make a booking. The cost of using the van is \$20.00 per day (members only)

Club Hand Extractor

The club has purchased a (3 basket) hand extractor to hire out to the members who only have a small number of frames to extract. To hire the extractor members should book and pay at the Club meeting prior to picking it up. A \$50.00 deposit is required and the cost is \$10.00 per day for a max of 7 days. Contact Peter Anderson on 3800 3562 regarding your bookings. The extractor must be returned clean. An electric knife will go out with the extractor.

April meeting

Discussion on how to over winter Bees.

How I started in Bees.

A five-minute talk about "How I became a Beekeeper".

- April - Phillip Geeves
- May - Peter Callcott

Committee Meeting

The next scheduled committee meeting will be held on the 11th April

Supper Roster

- April - Brad Jeffs, Stacy & Jan Krzewina
- May - Gunter Kohne, Bill Mahon and Dennis Manning

Room Set Up

- April - Jared Armstrong
- May - Stephen Baxendale



Club Notices

Honey Buckets, Bottles and Jars



If you require a large number of jars (more than 100) we respectfully request that you purchase them from one of our recommended Apiary Suppliers. Should you wish to purchase jars from the club please talk to Noela 07 3281 4165.



- Plastic 1 kg jars are 70c each and are available in 50 or 100 jar cartons.
- New 20 litre honey buckets with lids are \$6.00 each.
- 500g bottles for competitions are available at 90c each.

Please keep the boxes that the 1 kg bottles come in and return them for reuse.

Apithor beetle traps

The club currently has stock of beetle traps. They will be available from Noela at the next meeting at the cost of \$6.00 each. If you need large numbers of these please advise Noela beforehand.

Please note: The club does not stock or supply items other than the items above.

Beeswax wanted

Rod Palmer is interested in buying beeswax, any quantity, small or large. See Rod or Karen at the Club meeting or phone Rod to discuss. Business hours ph. 3495 7095 or 0417 796 257 or email rod@honeybee.com.au

Also, Quality Beekeeping Supplies are in need of wax and are keen to purchase any stock you may have. Contact Quality Beekeeping Supplies on 3376 5404.

Assistant Club Secretary

Below is a list of the proposed tasks that the new role of Assistant Club Secretary would undertake. Please contact one of the committee if you are able to help.

Prepare:

- Name badges for new members.
- Members sign in list for each meeting.
- List of members details including their address and phone number for annual distribution.
- Certificates for both honey competitions at the March meeting and the Field Day.
- Address labels for those members who receive their newsletter by post.
- Labels for the honey bottles etc; sold at the Ipswich and Beaudesert shows.

Please Note:

Due to space limitations, the printed version of the newsletter may differ to the email version. The full information is available in our email newsletter which can be found on our website - www.honey.org.au.

Cheers Phil C.



Articles (E-copy only) Manuka Gold.



A Perth company is planting one million trees with hopes of establishing lucrative Manuka honey industry

Tea tree trials in the south-west of Western Australia could lead to a lucrative local Manuka honey industry. Highly sought after for its antibacterial properties, Manuka honey is made from the pollen of the New Zealand tea tree, *Leptospermum scoparium*.

In some parts of the country researchers are looking at how Australian tea tree species could be used in the production of Manuka.

The Perth group said it believed its best hopes for success in the Manuka market was to recreate the product made from the original New Zealand species *Leptospermum* tree. Due to its antibacterial properties, Manuka honey is worth between \$40/kilo and \$100/kilo, much more than the standard price of \$5.50/kilo for West Australian honey. Perth businessman Paul Callander has imported *Leptospermum* seed varieties from the North island of New Zealand into Western Australia.

Mr Callander and his colleagues are growing one million trees in a Manjimup nursery in the south-west of the state. He said if he could work out how to grow the trees successfully, there was great potential for the establishment of a WA Manuka honey industry.

"In parallel we're working closely with the universities to try and build a database of all *Leptospermum* varieties around. "We're looking to partner with the bee industry to grow a really sustainable population." Consultant Tony Woods is working with Mr Callander to establish the tea tree population. Mr Woods believed the trees were suited to the soil types and environment, just like Australian tea tree varieties. It won't come tomorrow, but we're willing to work for the next few years, and if we can get it right, I think it will be really beneficial.

Full article:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-01/manuka-honey-industry-potential-wa/7208482>

Mind Your Wax

Worth nearly double what you can get for honey, beeswax is a pretty handy by-product by anyone's standards. The past couple of years have not been a great era in the apiary game; droughts and insecticides have taken their toll on honey production. But one part of the business continues to deliver for beekeepers: the beeswax side of the operation. Beeswax can be used in a variety of ways, from the simplest of furniture polish or moisture-proofing fabric, to being a component for products such as lipstick, medicines or foods, like jelly beans.



The by-product is currently selling at \$10 per kilogram, a nice price when compared to the going rate of \$5 and \$6 per kilogram for honey, depending on the quality. Wax is a good second string to the apiarist's bow. Kieran Sunderland works in his family's beekeeping operation at Dubbo in central-west New South Wales. He said the industry had seen a tough few years and he was only just starting to see some hopeful signs of better times ahead. "I'm seeing activity in the trees now that would indicate we might see better times ahead, but even

so, that would be about eight months away," he said. The Sunderlands base their

beekeeping operation on the outskirts of Dubbo, and their hives travel as far west as Bourke in search of the trees and plants they need. Recent rains in some parts of the region has provided relief from extended dry seasons.

Full Article

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-22/minding-your-beeswax-is-a-profitable-game/7189098>

Thanks to Dimitri for the above articles

Scientists discover why Royal Jelly creates Queens

Researchers believe they have found why royal jelly - secreted by adult nurse bees - cause honeybee larvae to develop into queen bees.

Royal jelly is a food substance secreted by adult bees that is fed in some measure to all young bees. The larvae that are chosen to be Queens are fed an exclusive diet of royal jelly.

A copious diet of royal jelly flicks a genetic switch in young bees and causes them to develop into a Queen bee, by boosting the activity of particular genes, say Australian researchers. They say the findings could provide clues on how the environment interacts with genes to produce obesity, longevity, sterility and brain disorders in humans.

Molecular biologist Dr Ryszard Maleszka and colleagues from the Australian National University in Canberra report their findings today in the journal Science.

"The larvae that develop into workers and queens are genetically identical," says Maleszka.

Yet he says those fattened up on royal jelly become fertile Queen bees and are much larger and longer-lived than the rest that turn into sterile workers.

The researchers wanted to test the idea that royal jelly controls Queen and worker development via epigenetics. Epigenetics involves chemical modification of the genome to change gene expression, and provides a way for the environment to affect an organism's genetics.

Some scientists think epigenetic factors explain why psychiatric diseases such as schizophrenia don't always appear in both identical twins.

"When we silenced a gene controlling DNA methylation without recourse to royal jelly, we discovered that the larvae began to develop as queens with the associated fertility, rather than as infertile workers," researcher Ryszard Maleszka said.

Dr Maleszka and his colleagues believe this is the first time that DNA methylation - a molecular process common in vertebrates, including humans - has been functionally implicated in insects.

They suspect the process could also be responsible for how the insects' brains develop, and therefore be connected to bee behaviour.

When the Dnmt3 gene was silenced, most of the larvae turned into queens. When the Dnmt3 gene was active, most of the larvae turned into workers.

"It was a beautiful switch," says Maleszka. "The results were so spectacular."

Maleszka says he doesn't know how royal jelly silences the Dnmt3 gene but speculates the insulin signalling pathway is involved.

A spin-off from the new work is that the team has developed a way of producing Queen bees in a test tube, without using royal jelly. Maleszka says this is of great interest to US beekeepers who want to get "clean" queen bees to help re-establish colonies devastated by Colony Collapse Disorder.

Thanks to Bill Mahon for this info that I extracted the the website of Quality Beekeeping
www.qualitybeekeepingsupplies.com.au

Disclaimer

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