



## Official Newsletter of the Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association Inc

### President's Report

Hi Everyone

We are all looking forward to a great day at Pine Mountain Hall on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July. It will be great fun and it's a good day to get to know other members of the club as well. We will kick off at 10am with morning tea. Lunch will be provided (BBQ Lunch). If you have any special dietary considerations, please bring along your own food. We are only too happy to cook it for you. Please remember the AGM for the club is in August. It would be great if members would consider nominating for the committee. All clubs need a change of committee members to ensure the club remains vibrant. No one person can be expected to perform the clubs activities forever. We thank Mike Trott for coming onto the committee and helping out as Assistant Secretary – it has been a great help to the committee. Nomination forms for the committee went out with the last newsletter.

The club has a large number of new members so please assist these members where you can, particularly if they live nearby. "Buddying Up" with an established Beekeeper really supports new members in setting up and maintaining bee hives that will thrive. As members are aware, Committee members Noela Geeves and George Pallot have both spent some time in Hospital – our best wishes for a speedy recovery to them both.

*Cheers for now Benita*

#### I&WMBA Committee 2015/16

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
Assistant Secretary	Mike Trott	07 5464 1949
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



- Honey Entries for EKKA close 1st July at 5.00pm
- Club meeting 5<sup>th</sup> July
- Practical Day at Pine Mountain 10<sup>th</sup> July
- Committee meeting 11<sup>th</sup> July
- Gold Coast Club Field Day 25<sup>th</sup> September.

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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>

**Early-Bird Registrations are now open for the Queensland Beekeepers' Association AGM and Annual Conference Mercure Townsville 13th and 14th July 2016**

Featuring a wonderful lineup of speakers including David Westervelt from Florida, USA giving the *Tony Knight Address* on American Foulbrood, and also Controlling Small Hive Beetle

Just \$160.00 for 2 days

See: <http://qbabees.org.au/events/coming-events/> or contact Secretary, Elise Whittaker on [qbainc@bigpond.com](mailto:qbainc@bigpond.com) or on (07) 3466 3542



### Membership Fees

Membership Fees for the 2016 - 17 year are overdue. If you have not yet paid please see Treasurer Mark Meerwald at the meeting to pay your annual fees.

Membership is \$25.00 for single membership and \$30.00 for a family membership.

### Practical Day

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July** has been chosen for our next Practical Day at the Pine Mountain Hall. This will be a hands on day, making up frames and boxes so everyone is ready for spring. The club will buy the kits and explain what needs to be done. The made up items will be available for purchase and new members will be given priority. The approx. cost of the hive kit will be \$130.00. The aim is to help the newer members of the club get established and ensure they are ready for spring.

**Please Note:** Members must register for this day at the July Meeting. Kits have to be ordered following the Meeting so they will be ready for the Practical Day. If you don't register, a kit will not be available for you.

### Beaudesert Show

The Beaudesert Show is our next club show event. All members are asked to keep either Friday or Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September free to help man the Club's stand. If you have never been to the Beaudesert Show, you should make it a priority, as it is one of the best shows of the year. You don't have to stay all day but if you can spare a couple of hours to give other members a break, it would be appreciated. We had less volunteers that we would have liked at the Ipswich Show so please if you can mangle even a couple of hours at this show it would be greatly appreciated.

### Ekka

Forming part of the Agricultural Hall, the Marsh Pty Ltd Apiculture Competition attracts honey, pollen, comb honey, beeswax and mead entries from across the country. Queen Bees fight for the champion title being judged on colour, conformity and size. Adding to the competition, live bee demonstrations take place daily to reveal the wonderful intricacies of their unique environment.

**Important dates to remember:** Applications to enter close Friday 1 July 2016 at 5pm. Judging is on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July from 10.00am. Delivery of entries: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016 by 9am, Gate 1, Gregory Terrace.

Phil Geeves will be taking entries to the EKKA on the Saturday Morning. Please contact Phil on 07 3282 3989 if you would like him to take your entry in.

### 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.		
Ekka	5th to 14th August	<a href="http://www.ekka.com.au">www.ekka.com.au</a>
Beaudesert	2nd to 3rd September	<a href="http://www.beaudesertshow.org.au">www.beaudesertshow.org.au</a>

### Annual General Meeting

The Club's Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.  
Nominate who you would like to see on the Committee for 2016 - 2017.  
The forms must be back to the Secretary by 19<sup>th</sup> July.



### Flora

In July be on the lookout for, Broad-leaved Ironbark, Grey Ironbark, Mountain Coolibah, Mugga Ironbark, Tea Tree, Yapunyah, SpottedGum, Blue Gum and Swamp Messmate.

### Nucleus (Nuc) hives

As the club has limited capacity to create Nucs and demand outstrips supply, we offer them preferentially to newer members that do not have any bees. Club nucleus hives are \$85.00 each with 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

### Show Results

Boonah	
Ken Freiberg	10 Firsts 5 Seconds and Champion Honey
Albert Payne	4 Firsts 4 Seconds
Peter Waldron	2 Firsts and 2 Seconds
Phil & Noela Geeves	1 Second
Lowood	
Albert Payne	7 Firsts & 6 Seconds
Ken Freiberg	2 Firsts & 4 Seconds Champion Honey of the Show
George Pallot	1 First
Phil & Noela Geeves	2 Firsts & 3 Seconds
Peter Waldron	2 Firsts & 1 Second
Kalbar	
Albert Payne	5 Firsts & 6 Seconds. Supreme Champion Honey, Champion Honey & Most Successful Exhibitor
Ken Freiberg	5 Firsts & 4 Seconds
Phil & Noela Geeves	2 Firsts & 1 Second
Peter Waldron	3 Firsts & 2 Seconds

### Membership Fees

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## 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.

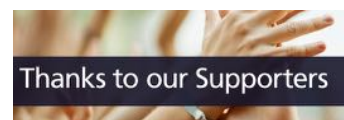


### Club shirts, badges and caps

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. Many thanks also to Councillor Kylie Stoneman for continuing support 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.

### July meeting

Our Guest Speaker for the July meeting is yet to be confirmed.

### How I started in Bees.

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

- July - Robert and Elizabeth Finney
- August - Jill Nelson



### Committee Meeting

The next scheduled committee meeting will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> July

### Supper Roster

- July - Guy & Elaine Mowat and Sarah Mowat
- August - Terry McAllister, Joanne McDonald and Peter McDougall

### Room Set up

- July - Chris Billing
- August - Philip Bond

## 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 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](mailto: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.



### Bee Food For Sale

Ken Freiberg has some bee food for sale. 2 x 500g Bee Build Protein Food and 1 x 3.8kg of Bee Build Pollen substitute. Contact Ken directly if you are interested. Tel: 07 3288 9873

### Bee Biosecurity

The 2016-17 Queensland budget will include a \$10.8 million boost to the state's biosecurity agency. The additional funds will be spent over the next four years and are in response to a review of Queensland's biosecurity system that called for an urgent funding injection. The review found that Biosecurity Queensland lacked the capacity and capability to respond to the ever-increasing number of pest and disease threats.

New biosecurity laws take effect in Queensland from 1 July 2016. Beekeepers should ensure they are aware of the changes and what they mean for beekeeping in Queensland.

The new legislation introduces the general biosecurity obligation. This means beekeepers will need to take an active role in managing biosecurity risks under their control and ensure their activities do not spread pests, diseases or contaminants.

For Info goto: <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/biosecurity/about-biosecurity/Biosecurity-Act-2014>

### Honey Judging Course

Have you ever considered being a honey competition judge and/or steward. You will find this a rewarding aspect of the competition and give you the knowledge and skills to judge at clubs and local shows. The course will involve subjects such as schedules, entries, colour grading, judging specifications and lots more. If so, register your interest as a course is being developed to be conducted later this year. When a sufficient number of people show interest in attending the course a date, venue and (small) cost will be advised.

Contact Ray Goldsworthy 0409 134 526 [lizray74@gmail.com](mailto:lizray74@gmail.com)

## Articles

### Taking the sting out of a bee's sex life

It may need tiny instruments and a good set of eyes, but artificial insemination for bees is the way to go according to one beekeeper in north-west New South Wales.

Second-generation honey bee keeper, Casey Cooper from Tingha maintains around 1,000 hives, and uses artificial insemination on his Queen bees.

"So I can keep a better line of what I like in my bees. I pick for what I want in my hives," Mr Cooper said. A big burly man of the land, he sits at a table with equipment which would not be out of place in a scientific laboratory.



Running from the microscope is a thin clear plastic tube feeding into the plastic top of a small glass jar which was once full of peanut butter. A second tube goes out of the jar through the lid to a gas cylinder nearby. "When we collect the semen from our drones to inseminate the queen we need to use carbon dioxide to gas her," Mr Cooper said. "This is to knock her out so she will stay still while we do the procedure. "First a drone is selected from a number housed in a cage. Prior to milking him for his semen, his head is crushed which replicates his fate in the wild. "This is the only way to do it. A drone will only mate once. He will die after mating with the queen," Mr Cooper said.

"We are not doing anything different to what nature intended. "The drone is then lightly squeezed. The eversion of the endophallus produces a "white ball of mucus", which is the first step in the two-part process. "That is a small film of semen. We then put him under the microscope with a syringe, which we have primed with a saline solution," he said. "We will now draw the semen off the drone with the needle and store it in a capillary tube until we are ready to do the virgins." The semen can be stored at room temperature for around two to three weeks. The semen cannot be frozen "which is a shame" unlike what is taken from animals such as horses and cattle.

Once the semen is collected and it is time to inseminate the virgin queen, she is placed under the microscope. "We place her in a small plastic container upside down," Mr Cooper explained. "Then using the tiny pair of tweezers on her right we'll grab hold of her sting. "We then open her up and then put the needle in to insert the semen." One in five drones "are no good" as they may be immature or contaminated. "So we use around 15 drones for one virgin." A tube of semen will be sufficient for 50 queens. Mr Cooper will put aside a day to milk drones. Once the queen has been impregnated she is locked back in a hive, which she cannot fly out from. A day later Mr Cooper once again collects her and she is "gassed again to encourage her to lay".



The second gassing is again designed to simulate what happens in the wild. "A virgin queen takes two flights from the hive," he said. "They suck in a big breath of air opening glands in the back of the head. "If you don't gas the queens twice they will not lay." The queen bees are kept separate from the other bees including queens in the hives that are producing honey. "I want to keep the bloodlines that I have worked at over a number of years to achieve," Mr Cooper said. Those good bloodlines include producing good honey and an even temperament, which means they are less likely to sting.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-09/artificial-bee-insemination/7496312>

## Busy little bees make hay for WA apiarists.

For the first time in 10 years, Karri trees in south-west WA are in bloom — providing a boom for apiarists. Commercial beekeepers, Rupert and Kim Phillips, were two of many who positioned their hives in the south west and set their bees to work among the flowering Karri trees.

They strategically, and carefully, placed 45 hives on private property surrounded by Karri trees with a water source nearby — a must for the health and wellbeing of their bees.



"It's been a dream run actually, and we've been blessed to be in the position to be able to take advantage of it, but more so, just engage in such a rare event," Mr Phillips said.

"We've had the hives stationed down here for the better part of a year and, in terms of production, it's been between 100 and 200 kilos of honey per hive, which is enviable around the world."

Western Australia is viewed by the international beekeeping community as one of the best places in the world to maintain a hive, due to the absence of disease and Mr Phillips said Karri honey was a much sought-after product domestically.

"It does fetch a premium price," Mr Phillips said. "It has a very light colour with a nice mild flavour and is widely liked by a lot of people in WA." While the ideal conditions have been terrific for apiarists, it was also beneficial to their colony of bees.

In keeping with the social structure of the hive, the "worker" bees have been hard at work each day, collecting pollen and returning it to the hive while the queen remains, often laying up to 2,000 eggs per day during peak periods of spring and summer.

The worker bees, all female, must fulfil different roles throughout their short lifespan, from feeding younger bees with "bee milk" before progressing to guard duty in and around the hive.

From there, they move on to their final role, foraging the tree tops for pollen and nectar before "working themselves to death", as quickly as six weeks in summer, while winter affords them up to six months. The queen can live up to six years, however Rupert and Kim Phillips replace theirs on average after two years due to a diminished egg-laying capacity. Nerves of steel needed

As with most animals, Ms Phillips said handling bees required confidence — particularly when the temperature begins to drop. "When the climate is like this, a bit drizzly and a bit cooler, they get a bit grumpy with you," Ms Phillips said. "Generally, if you're nervous they will be nervous.



"When you first start out it's quite daunting, but as you go along you get more relaxed and they pick up on that and become calm as well." But with the season and available pollen almost diminished, the beekeepers have collected their last frames of honey and will relocate the hives to warmer climes closer to Perth. Both say the event was worth the wait and inevitable bee stings. "There have been a few," Mr Phillips said. "I would say I had between five to 10 stings per visit, you multiply by 26 visits and it's a few hundred stings."

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-15/karri-blossom-win-for-beekeepers/7513786>

*Thanks to Dimitri for the above articles.*