



Bee Flight



Official Newsletter of the
Ipswich and West Moreton Beekeepers Association Inc.

President's Report.

The month of May will be a busy one for the club so I do ask you all to consider if you could spare some time to assist us with the Apiary display for Honey Month at the Ipswich Library and manning the stall at the Ipswich Show. Both of these are really important events in our Club's activities. For the Ipswich Show, we will need assistance on Thursday evening to set up, all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Help on Monday to pack up will also be needed.

For the library, we will need volunteers to man the Honey Display and talk to people about Beekeeping. This does not have to be longer than a couple of hours, however the display will be in the library beginning the 1st May for 6 weeks. If any Beekeepers have interesting Historical Books or items for the display it would be greatly appreciated. All items will be securely locked away. So please give of your time for both events.

Please direct any queries or indications that you can help out to Noela Geeves (for the show) or myself (for the display). The Ipswich Show is our main fundraiser for the year. This assists us in paying our very expensive insurances for the year.

And finally, a big thanks to the wonderful group of people who came and packed the honey jars for distribution to members. It's a great morning and a good way to get to know people. Morning tea down by the creek is always a hit!

Cheers for now *Benita*

Club Committee

Members can call any of the committee members for help and/or advice with your bees.

Patron	Norm Hinton	
President	Benita Ironside	☎ 0414 939 681
Vice President	George Pallot	☎ 07 3202 8332
Secretary	Noela Geeves	☎ 07 3281 4165
Treasurer	Phil Geeves	☎ 07 3282 3989
Committee	Beryl Salmond	☎ 07 3281 7613
Committee	Grahame Yates	☎ 07 3288 8238
Committee	Kellie Round	☎ 0407 114 513
Committee	Phil Corbett	☎ 0419 196 330



Honey Month 1st May to 1st June
 Club Meeting - 5th May
 Marburg Show 8th & 9th May
 Committee meeting - 11th May
 Ipswich Show Setup - May 14th
 Ipswich Show 15th to 17th May
 Boonah Show 15th -16th May
 Trevor Nardi Talk - 21st May
 Bottle Packing 22nd May

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.

Name Badge Reminder.

Members are reminded to wear their name badges at meetings and events to help others recognise you, particularly as there are many new members. If you are unable to find your name badge, please see Noela or Phillip Geeves and they will arrange for a new badge.



Ipswich Show	Know your Flora
Show dates 2015	Bee Pictures
Show entries	Regular Items
Stolen Hives	Honey Month
Practical Day review	
Articles: Over wintering bees, Hive mats, Bee Temperature control & insecticides amid honeybee decline	

Current Happenings

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

Ipswich Show -15th to 17th May 2014

Our club once again has a stall selling and promoting honey and honey related products such as hand creams, soaps etc. This show is the club's main fundraiser for the year. The club will take the demonstration cage and open a hive to show the public. Extracting of honey will also take place. A

roster will be handed around at the May meeting for members to volunteer their time. You don't have to stay all day or night but a couple of hours will really help and give others a break. Workers do get a free pass into the show. Volunteers will also be needed to set up on the **Thursday 14th** evening from 6pm and on **Monday the 18th** to help pull down the stall. Contact Noela on 07 3281 4165.

Show dates for 2015

Listed below are the current published dates for the most relevant Queensland shows this year.

Correction: Please note the dates for the Marburg show are not as previously advised. The show is on the 8th and 9th May.

Marburg	8 th to 9 th May	www.marburgshow.com.au
Boonah	15 th to 16 th May	www.boonahshowsociety.org.au
Ipswich	15 th to 17 th May	www.ipswichshow.com.au
Esk	22 nd to 23 rd May	www.eskshow.com.au
Lowood	29 th to 30 th May	www.lowoodshowsociety.com.au
Toogoolawah	5 th to 6 th June	www.toogoolawahshowsociety.org.au
Kalbar	12 th to 13 th June	www.kalbarshow.net.au
Rosewood	19 th to 21 st June	www.rosewoodshow.com
Redcliffe	26 to 28 th June	www.redcliffeshow.org.au
Ekka	7 th to 16 th Aug	www.ekka.com.au
Beaudesert	4 th to 5 th Sept	www.beaudesertshow.org.au

Show Entries

The first show for 2015 will be **Marburg Show** on the 8th & 9th May. If you wish for any entries to be taken on your behalf they need to be with Phil Geeves on Thursday 7th before 12 noon. Alternatively bring your entries to the Club Meeting on Tuesday with your completed entry forms. Entries will be accepted on Thursday night the 7th May from 7.30pm at the Steinhardt Pavilion. Entry forms and schedule can be found at www.marburgshow.com.au

Entries for **Ipswich Show** will be accepted on Wednesday 13th from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and Thursday 14th May from 7.30am to 9am. Entry forms can be secured from the show website www.ipswichshow.com.au

Boonah show is also on the weekend of the 15th and 16th May, Entries will be accepted at Boonah Showgrounds on Friday 15th May between 7am and 10am. If you are unable to deliver your entries contact Phil Geeves and he will organise for them to go with Ken Freiberg. The schedule and entry forms are available at www.boonahshowsociety.org.au

Stolen Hives

We have been advised of a hive theft near Toowoomba. Mark Rook has a forestry site in the Geham Forestry north of Toowoomba and someone has stolen 12 hives since his last visit to the site. (about 3 weeks ago). They were discovered missing on the 14th April, They are branded with R820 and or P128. We share this information in case anyone hears of these hives trying to be sold. Mark Rook can be contacted on 0407 590 939

Practical Day 19 April

Our practical day at Corinda High School was well attended by novice and experienced beekeepers as well as by three students from the school. I was pleased to see some teachers and visitors from the Tamborine Sustainable Garden Society. The bees were inspected, honey was robbed and extracted. (Probably 40 to 60 kilos of honey) bee boxes and frames were made up ready for Spring. The day was a busy one for all members and visitors and Morning Tea and Lunch was very well received.

We will be returning to Corinda High later in the year for another practical day, so please keep an eye on the newsletter for the date. The Agricultural Section of the school is interesting and worth a visit as well.

Cheers Benita

Flora. In May we should be seeing

Brown Bloodwood, Broad-Leaved Ironbark, Gum Topped Box, Molly Red Box, Mountain Coolibah, Pink Bloodwood, Paper Barked Tea Tree, White Box, Caley's Ironbark, Blackbutt.

Know your Flora

Bloodwood

Common Name: Red Bloodwood (Syn. *Eucalyptus gummifera*) Distribution: Coastal NSW extending from Victoria into Queensland. One of the most widespread species of tree occurring in Australia. Although this species is widespread and generally adequately conserved it is in heavy decline in certain vegetation communities where fire has been absent for many decades.

Description: Medium to tall tree to 25m height is correlated to soil fertility and exposure. Bark is heavy and tessellated/scaly in appearance, dark in colour if subjected to bushfires otherwise light brown often with obvious wounds exuding heavy thick resinous red sap (kino), only outer smaller limbs are smooth barked. Leaves are thick dark green in colour and discolorous, lanceolate 10–16 cm long, 2–4 cm wide, often held on the ends of branches in thick heads. Flowers are generally produced in heavy events in late summer through early autumn. They are white or creamy in colour on terminal branchlets. Fruit is a distinctive urn shaped capsule. Longevity: Over 100 years. A fast growing tree suitable for use as a street tree and park planting.



Tolerates a wide variety of soils provided adequate moisture is available in the establishment period. Flowers are quite ornamental and showy since they are produced on the outside of the canopy Fauna Copious nectar production attracts a wide range of both invertebrate and vertebrate fauna. Fruit (seed) eaten by cockatoos. Glider possums actively scar this tree's trunk and branches to access the sap flow for food. Older trees develop hollow bearing branches, which provide breeding and roosting opportunities for a diverse range of species.

Bee Pics



Figure 1 Ants moving a dead bee

Figure 2 Bees chasing a Fruit Bat



Regular Items

Club shirts, badges and caps

If you are proud to be a club member why not show it? 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. We also have club caps available for sale at \$15.00. Buy one at the next meeting.

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. Again many thanks to Noel Scholz for these items. Any member can borrow these to make up frames.

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) Please pay the Treasurer at the next meeting if you have used the van in the previous month.

New Club Hand Extractor

The club has purchased a new (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.

Library

All our videos are now available on DVD. Library books, videos and now DVDs are able to be borrowed for one month at a time. If you wish to keep the book, video or DVD for another month, bring it back and it can be re-issued to you. Any books, videos or DVDs lost or damaged will need to be paid for by the borrower. We also now have the new revised edition of the Bee Book by Peter Warhurst and Roger Goebel. A small deposit is required to borrow this book as, in the past, we have lost similar books.

May Meeting

Our Speaker this month will be James Linklater-Steele, James will present on his experiences with plastic hives. Our main raffle prize will be a \$25.00 voucher from Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies.

How I started in Bees.

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

- May - Peter Anderson
- June - Jared Armstrong

Committee Meeting

Next scheduled committee meeting will be held on the 11th May

Supper Roster

- May - Caleb Spicer, Glen Sutherland and Lou Uljarevic
- June - Jon Vermeer, Alan Waters and Ian Workman

Room Set Up

- May - Neil Robinson
- June - Darryl Ryan





Honey Month

May is Honey Month and the club will be involved with a display at the Ipswich Library. The club is looking for items to purchase or borrow to use in the display, particularly items of historic interest. In you have any items please contact Benita on ☎ 0414 939 681.

Volunteers will be required for a couple of hours on certain days between the 1st May and the first week of June to man the stand. *Please contact President Benita for more information and to volunteer.*

Urban Buzz -Talk By Trevor Nardi

5.30 to 7.00pm Ipswich Library Barry Jones Auditorium Tel: 3810 6815

Packing bottles - help required

Friday 22nd May to pack 1 kg plastic jars at Rod Palmer's from 9.00am. Morning tea supplied afterwards.

Honey Buckets, Bottles and Jars

Recently some members have made large purchases of jars from the club. Our aim in supplying jars to members is to supply jars to smaller operators not large-scale honey producers. 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. Volunteers pack club jars in small quantities and it takes a great deal of time to pack ship and store them.

Should you wish to purchase jars from the club please talk to Noela ☎ 07 3281 4165.

- Plastic 1kg 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.



We ask that you keep the boxes that the 1kg 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 \$5.50 each. If you need large numbers of these please advise Noela beforehand.

Also 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

Qld Beekeepers Association's Annual State Conference

QBA's annual conference will be hosted by the Brisbane Branch this year and will be on Thursday 11th & Friday 12th June 2015 at the Pacific Resort Function Centre, 128 Middle Street, Cleveland. The field-day on Saturday 13th June at the Ormiston State School, Wellington Road, Ormiston, commencing at 9am. There will be a \$5 admission fee to the field-day, which includes a ticket for a multi-draw raffle. There will be a large range of exhibitors, displays, speakers, demonstrations as well as food and drinks. Ample parking both at the school and adjacent to the Ormiston railway station. See the QBA website for more details.

www.qbabees.org.au

Extractor for sale

Two framed manual extractor for sale \$175.00 or nearest offer. Contact: Glen Sutherland. Email: yabbies2@gmail.com or call 3374 1611.



Articles

Over wintering Bees: Dr Doug Somerville

Dr Doug Somerville is the technical specialist for honeybees within the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

On average, 20% of unmanaged bee colonies may die during winter. In managed hives this figure can vary from around 5% to 100%, depending on the measures taken in autumn to prepare for winter. The prime consideration for over-wintering bees is to keep them alive and in reasonable condition to come into the spring. If they survive into spring, their numerical strength and disease status will largely depend on what management practices were adopted in autumn, not what is done in winter.

Pre-winter inspection

The final inspection before the onset of winter should take place in April or the beginning of May at the latest. Pick a sunny day on the warmer side, and remove the lid and any supers. In doing so, estimate the amount of honey stored. Thoroughly inspect the brood for disease symptoms and, at the same time, check the status of the colony and queen: Is there a drone layer? Is it a weak colony or is the queen failing, or is it a colony with a good population headed by a young queen?

These factors are of prime importance. If the queen is failing, or has become a drone layer, or the colony is queenless, then forget about over-wintering that hive. Kill the queen and join with another colony, placing a piece of newspaper between them. If the queen cannot be located, then let the colony die out. Joining it onto a queen-right colony may lead to that colony's downfall as well. If the colony has insufficient bees (less than six frames of bees) to maintain a cluster and thus preserve the temperature in the hive, it may easily succumb to cold weather and die.

It is important that nucleus hives made up after Christmas are sufficiently strong. This can be achieved either by joining with another colony (one queen must go) or by transferring a frame or two of brood with bees (no queen) into the weaker colony without seriously debilitating the hive from which the brood is removed. This practice is to be avoided in the late autumn as excess manipulation will put the bees under undue stress. If the colony hasn't built up by late March, then something is amiss with the queen or colony – due to either low fertility or disease, or lack of pollen and nectar.

Disease status

Four brood diseases may be encountered: European foulbrood, American foulbrood, sac-brood and chalk-brood. If anything is amiss in the hive, or you are unsure of what to look for, then contact or send a sample of brood or a microscopic slide (smear) with some of the suspect material on it to be tested at your local laboratory. A colony confirmed to have American foulbrood (AFB) must be destroyed. If a colony has a trace of European foulbrood (EFB), treatment with antibiotics is recommended. Medication may not work satisfactorily in a colony, which is heavily infected. On the other hand, sac-brood is only a minor disease. Serious cases are uncommon but at times sac-brood can be confused with AFB and EFB. Chalk-brood reduces production by killing some of the developing brood. Treatment with medications is not possible. Nosema, a disease of adult bees, is particularly significant in an over-wintering situation. Nosema is associated with stress through nutrition deficiencies and manipulation. Management techniques rather than medication are used to control this disease. These techniques are more or less similar to those practices used for over-wintering bees. When the brood nest has been examined, close the hive up. Note the reserves of honey the colony has for winter.

Honey Stores

More colonies die from starvation than from any other cause during winter. Colonies should be reduced to doubles (two boxes) and, if strong in numbers, should have one box nearly full of honey. If the colony is on the weaker side, it is desirable to over-winter the colony in a brood box as a single deck hive. The colony should have three or four frames full of honey. If you are unsure it is always better to leave too much honey rather than too little. Avoid feeding liquid honey back to bees, due to the possibility it is carrying bee disease organisms. The alternative is to feed sugar in syrup form. If this method is selected, it is better to feed in bulk before winter than to feed in small lots through winter. Use white table sugar. Brown, raw or any other sugars are not suitable and will lead to digestive problems if fed to bees. A ratio of 2:1 sugar: water is usually recommended for winter stores. Up to 10 kg of sugar may be fed to each hive, as small amounts tend to stimulate the colony, a situation to avoid at this time of the year.

When determining how much sugar to feed, as a guide 2.5 kg of sugar is equal to one frame of honey. Three examples of feeders are:

- *A bag under the lid.* A bladder from a wine cask will hold a few litres – a few holes in the belly will allow the bees to suck the nectar out. Remove the tap and wash the bladder out thoroughly before use – alcohol can kill bees!
- *An inverted tin can,* for example a milk powder can, will hold three or four litres. Perforate the lid with a few nail holes and invert over the frames in the hive to allow the bees to remove the syrup.
- *An empty super placed on the top of the colony with up to four ice-cream containers* with a piece of hessian draped into the containers and a piece of polystyrene in each container. This prevents the bees from drowning. Up to 16 L of syrup can be fed in this way. Take care not to leave fermented sugar syrup in the feeders. If bees haven't consumed the syrup within 3 days, discard the syrup.
- During the winter period, dry sugar feeding has been used with some success. Place white table sugar on the inner mat under the lid.

Location and site of the apiary

The siting of an apiary, important at any time of year, is of particular concern during cooler months. Wind can devastate honeybee populations in the winter. Wind whistling through the hive will place the hive under a lot of stress, causing the colony to consume its stored honey very quickly and increasing the level of disease, particularly nosema. Locate your hives in a dry sunny area, preferably with a north-east aspect and protected from prevailing winds. This will ensure the maximum number of cleansing flights, which will help to keep nosema at a low level. Bees confined for a long time foul their hive, leading to high levels of nosema. Hives located on the Tablelands and Slopes are best placed out of foraging range from winter flowering flora so that they become brood-less. Hives in coastal areas are more inclined to rear brood through the winter. These warmer areas encourage bees to forage all winter, thus requiring a higher level of management. A close check should be kept of stored pollen, nosema levels, and the amount of brood. Livestock should also be considered when selecting a site. Cattle have a habit of using hives as a convenient rubbing post, usually pushing the hive.

Other factors to consider

It is often an advantage to reduce the entrance to 50–75 mm. This will allow weaker colonies to guard their entrance more effectively. Winter months are often wet and vehicle access to the site can be a problem. Take this into consideration when choosing a position to overwinter bees. Remember that the best time for overwintering preparation is autumn. Confine your bee-related winter activities to your garage or workshop, preparing and repairing equipment for the coming spring. If you wish to check on the progress of colonies during winter, choose a warm sunny day. You should visit your hives once a month and lift them up by the back hand hole to check their weight. Remember, when bees start to increase the brood area towards the end of winter, starvation is the greatest problem.

Honeybee Temperature control

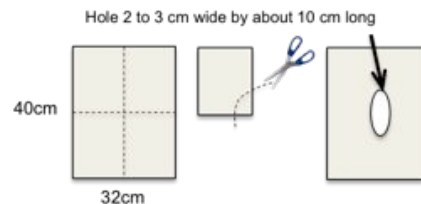
The honeybee needs an internal body temperature of 35 °C to fly; this temperature is maintained in the nest to develop the brood, and is the optimal temperature for the creation of wax. The temperature on the periphery of the cluster varies with outside air temperature, and the [winter cluster's](#) internal temperature may be as low as 20–22°C.

Honeybees can forage over a 30°C air-temperature range because of behavioural and physiological mechanisms for regulating the temperature of their flight muscles. From low to high air temperatures, the mechanisms are: shivering before flight, and stopping flight for additional shivering; passive body-temperature regulation based on work, and [evaporative cooling](#) from regurgitated honey-sac contents. The optimal air temperature for [foraging](#) is 22–25°C. During flight, the bee's relatively large flight muscles create heat, which must dissipate. The honeybee uses evaporative cooling to release heat through its mouth. Under hot conditions, heat from the thorax is dissipated through the head; the bee regurgitates a droplet of warm internal fluid — a "honeycrop droplet" – which reduces the temperature of its head by 10 °C. Below 7–10°C bees are immobile, and above 38°C their activity slows. Honeybees can tolerate temperatures up to 50°C for short periods.

Using and installing a Hive Mat.

Most beekeepers insert some kind of inner cover between the top super and the hive lid. Although used overseas, inner covers or ceilings made of plywood or Masonite with a rim of battens all round to provide bee-space above top bars are not normally used in Australia. However, mats made of plastic, floor vinyl, or other similar materials are commonly used here. Various experienced Australian beekeepers champion the use of hive mats in a variety of materials and designs. Our own Cec Mercer uses and recommends a mat of his own design. The Mercer Mat can be made easily and inexpensively by any beekeeper. It is specifically designed to provide appropriate ventilation to reduce excessive moisture in the hive, but it also useful in:

- Deterring the building of burr comb in the hive lid
- Encouraging the bees not to propolise ventilation holes
- Assisting winter storage of empty drawn comb
- Temperature and moisture regulation



The Mercer Mat is a sheet of plastic vinyl, cut to allow air to rise on all four edges of the mat as well as up between the top bars of the central two frames of the top super. The mat for the standard 10 frame hive should be about 32cm wide and about 40cm long, ensure you leave a gap all the way round of 10 to 15mm. The rectangular sheet is then folded into quarters and a section cut out of the folded edge such that, when the sheet is opened out, an elongated oval hole is made in the sheet. The resultant hole should be 2 to 3 cm across and 10 to 15 cm long. A wide variety of plastic sheeting can be used to make these mats. However, any non-absorbent sheeting that can be cut to the appropriate shape may be used. There is advantage in using a material that is easily obtainable, easily cut and cheap. The mat is laid across the top of the frames under the lid, providing a ventilation gap all around and between the middle top bars. The main principle behind the design of the Mercer Mat is that the greatest danger to the health of the colony in winter is not cold, but excessive moisture. The cluster is the effective temperature management tool of the wintering colony; but wetting of the cluster by condensation of moisture expired by the bees can greatly reduce that effectiveness. The central opening in the mat allows the colony to regulate ventilation of the winter cluster and better control humidity and temperature within the cluster. The design assumes that the hive lid is fitted with ventilation holes to the outside. The mat is also effective in minimising the development of burr comb in the hive lid. Comb will not be built in the area between the mat and the lid unless the beekeeper is slow in adding additional supers when a flow is in progress and the colony runs out of room below the mat. Bees will often block or reduce the size of ventilation holes in the hive lid with propolis; however, when the Mercer mat is used it is very rare for those ventilation holes to be even partially propolised. The mat is particularly useful when supers of extracted comb are stored on the hives over winter. Rather than treating stored empty combs throughout the winter with PDB or Phostoxin, one super of empty comb can be stored on each hive, above a mat. The bees will not occupy the stored frames in normal circumstances but, in warmer moments over the winter, will venture into the stored box and generally keep it free of wax moth. If an unexpected flow occurs in early Spring, the bees will use the stored combs if they run out of space below the mat.

Paul Hooper

This hint appeared first in the April 2002 newsletter of the Beekeepers Association of the ACT.

U.S. to halt expanded use of some insecticides amid honeybee decline

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on (2nd April 2015) it was unlikely to approve new or expanded uses of certain pesticides while it evaluates the risks they may pose to honey bees.

The so-called neonicotinoid pesticides are routinely used in agriculture and applied to plants and trees in gardens and parks. But their widespread use has come under scrutiny in recent years after a drop in the number of honeybees and other pollinating insects, which play key roles in food production.

The decline is attributed to factors including pesticide and herbicide use, habitat loss and disease, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The EPA notice came the day after Oregon's largest city suspended the use of the pesticides on its property to protect honeybees. The unanimous vote on Wednesday by the Portland City Commission came despite protests from farmers, nursery owners and others who claimed the insecticide was crucial in combating pests that destroy crops and other plants. Portland is among at least eight municipalities that have banned the chemicals.

See more at: <http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/25494/#sthash.0UyxKCHK.dpuf>

Thanks to Kellie Round for this Article.