



Official Newsletter of the Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association Inc

President's Report

The Ipswich Show is fast approaching and I ask all members to consider giving a few hours to assist with the Club's activities. This is our most significant fundraising event for the year. The proceeds from the sale of honey and other products places the club in a good financial position to pay for our larger financial commitments such as insurance. We hope that you all where possible will spare a couple of hours to come & help out setting up on Thursday night and again packing up on Monday morning which requires a big effort.

I do know that many members will just arrive and quietly go about assisting with whatever is needed. I thank them now for their continued commitment to the club and for the support we can always rely on. Further details about the show are in this newsletter.

As May is honey month, we will be combining our activities and handing flyers to the public to raise aware of the many uses for honey and wax. If you have any information which you feel may be of interest to include in the flyer, please let me know.

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

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- Club meeting 3rd May
 - Committee meeting 9th May
 - Set up for Ipswich Show 12th May
 - Ipswich Show. "Come along and help". 13th to 15th May
 - Pack up Ipswich Show 16th May
 - Practical Day at Pine Mountain 10th July

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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 or on (07) 3466 3542



Membership Fees

Membership Fees for the 2016 - 17 year are due now. 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.



Show Entries

The first show for 2016 will be **Marburg** on the 6th & 7th May. Members that want entries to be taken on their behalf need to get them to Phil Geeves on Thursday 5th May before 12 noon. Alternatively bring your entries to the Club Meeting on Tuesday 3rd May, with your completed entry forms. If you prefer you can lodge your own entries at the show. Entries will be accepted on Thursday night the 5th 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 11th May from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and Thursday 12th May from 7.30am to 9am. Entry forms can be secured from the show website. www.ipswichshow.com.au.

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.		
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 sell our 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. Volunteers are needed to help setup the stand on the Thursday night from 6.00 pm and then pull down and clean up on the Monday morning from 8.00 am. We have a roster for the 3 days. To volunteer please contact Noela or sign on at the May meeting.

Practical Day

Sunday 10th 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 aim is to help the newer members of the club get established and ensure they are ready for spring. To make sure that the club purchases enough kits please register for the day with Noela at or before the June Meeting. There will be a small charge by Grahame Yates and Phillip Geeves as they will dip all the boxes on behalf of members.

Nucleus (Nuc) hives

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

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 and Blackbutt.

Queens

Please find listed below a list of Queen bee suppliers for your reference.

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
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

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.

May meeting

This month's meeting will include a presentation and discussion on overwintering bees. If you are new to beekeeping, knowledge on this topic is an essential skill, so please ensure you attend this meeting.

How I started in Bees.

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

- May - Peter Callcott
- June - Matthew Cooper

Committee Meeting

The next scheduled committee meeting will be held on the 9th May

Supper Roster

- May - Gunter Kohne, Bill Mahon and Dennis Manning
- June - Jan & Stacy Krzewina and Peter Meehan

Room Set Up

- May - Stephen Baxendale
- June - Conal Berry

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.



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.



Bees Pics



A surprise visitor at Trevor Nardi's Apiary. Talk about the birds and the bees.



ARTICLES

Elephants and Bees Project

This is a fantastic story that Bill & Desley Mahon forwarded to me. Visit the website for more info and some incredible pictures. I have also put a video link of some Disney footage on the Club Website <http://elephantsandbees.com>

Phil Corbett

The Elephants and Bees Project is an innovative study using an in-depth understanding of elephant behaviour to reduce damage from crop-raiding elephants using their instinctive avoidance of African honey bees. The project explores the use of novel Beehive Fences as a natural elephant deterrent creating a social and economic boost to poverty-stricken rural communities through pollination services and the sustainable harvesting of "Elephant-Friendly Honey".



Dr Lucy King established this award winning research project, and leads this exciting collaboration between Save the Elephants, Oxford University and Disney's Animal Kingdom.

Elephants tend to crop-raid at night time, and farmers confronting elephants in the dark are often left with no choice but to throw stones and fire crackers or shoot bullets into the air to try to scare them away. This confrontation leads to

heightened aggression and some elephants will charge and attack.

These negative incidents often lead to terrible injuries or deaths of both people and elephants.



AFB Dog

Check out this amazing dog called Klinker that Michael Howcroft came across. It is the only certified dog in the United States that can sniff out AFB. Usually when the American foulbrood bacteria is discovered, it's too late to save the bees. The beekeeper has no choice but to burn the whole colony to keep it from spreading. This is costly. Not to mention pretty sad. But Klinker can detect the bacteria before that — saving her state of Maryland money and bees at the same time.

<http://www.upworthy.com/this-special-dog-is-saving-our-bees-shes-the-only-one-that-can>

Overwintering Bees

A bee colony needs to maintain a constant brood temperature of 34°C. In winter bees achieve this by generating heat with their body. Honey serves as food and pollen provides the proteins bees need in their diet. To survive periods of time without bringing in fresh nectar and pollen bees rely on their stores of pollen and honey.

During spring and summer, when bee colony population is strong and honey is being produced and stored, beekeepers increase the size of the beehive to make space and to reduce swarming. Whilst the hive with 2 or 3 supers can be supported by the bees during summer this is unlikely in winter. To help your bees survive the winter there are a few important things to consider.

Reduce hive size for winter.

If you live in a small house it takes less to heat than a large one. Instead of 2 or 3 supers stacked on top of each other reduce the hive to 1 or 2 boxes. This may not be possible with very large colonies but if you leave more supers on monitor the colony size and strength over winter.

Make sure the hive is tilted a little to the front, so moisture can escape out of the entrance. Condensation builds up inside the hive during cold temperatures and needs to escape. Condensation during cold nights can be reduced by using a hive mat or other insulation. If the colony has insufficient bees (less than six frames of bees) to maintain a cluster and preserve the temperature in the hive it may easily succumb to cold weather and die. Consider merging it with another colony. Details on how to do this are in the "The Bee Book" by Peter Warhurst & Roger Goebel which is available from Bee Equipment Suppliers, or from the club library.

Food

Make sure your bees have enough food for winter. Whilst there is some trial and error in this I don't think you can leave too much honey. If the hive is full in May and they don't eat it, you can rob it as soon as the weather warms up and food is available again. In my first year of keeping bees I left the honey that was in the brood box and a couple of frames in the super. We had a long cold winter and even though I fed my bees I lost a couple of hives to what I believe was a lack of food. Last year I left 7 frames of honey and 2 stickies and all my hives made it through the cold months.

Location.

Here in Queensland during summer, hives are often placed in the shade. In winter placing your hives in a sunny spot can help to keep the bees warm. Also consider reducing the size of the entrance by packing it with paper.

Opening your hives in winter.

From the research I have done there are differing options on opening hives in winter and needless to say it varies on location. Opening your hives in July in Cairns is a different proposition to Stanthorpe. In the main, the recommendation appears to suggest that following a final inspection about May here in Queensland, before the colder weather you are best to leave them alone until spring. Unless of course you observe some activity or signs that the hive might be in trouble. In the final inspection you should check the hive for disease and hygiene, ensure the excluder is clean and that you have beetle traps (if used) that will last the winter in place.

Feeding

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.

For more on overwintering your bees come to the next club meeting on the 3rd May for a presentation and discussion on the topic.

Disclaimer

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