



# BEE FLIGHT NEWSLETTER



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

### Presidents Report

It's been a busy few weeks for Beekeepers with many reporting great yields of honey and a few swarms as well. If any newer members of the club require assistance with hive management, please contact an established Beekeeper from the Club within your area. As the heat and humidity increases so will hive beetle numbers so please check your hives regularly. Please note within the newsletter, the date of our next Practical Day (8<sup>th</sup> November) which is a must for new Beekeepers. These days will only continue to be held if sufficient members attend, so please indicate you're attendance by contacting Noela or myself. As I am sure you are all aware many established members of the club give a lot of their time to club activities to provide support for new members and keep the activities of the club functioning at such a high level. Having been the recipient of such support myself, I am always so very grateful to these members. Please also remember our Christmas Meeting (family members are welcome). It's the final event of the Club's activities for the year. It as usual will be a great evening.

Happy Beekeeping  
Benita

### I&WMBA Committee 2015

Patron	Norm Hinton	
President	Benita Ironside	0414 939 681
Vice President	George Pallot	07 3202 8332
Secretary	Noela Geeves	07 3281 4165
Treasurer	Mark Meerwald	0439 457 217
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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
Packing Bottles at Rod's - 6<sup>th</sup> November  
Club's Practical Day 8<sup>th</sup> November  
Committee Meeting - 9<sup>th</sup> November  
Club Christmas Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> December

Club Field Day - 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016

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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>**

## Gold Coast Field Day

The Gold Coast field day was on last weekend and the competition results will be in the December newsletter.

## Packing Bottles

Volunteers are required to help pack bottles on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November from 9.00 am out at Rod Palmers'. Morning tea afterwards down by the creek.

## Practical Day

The Committee has organised our next Practical Day for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00am. The venue is Pine Mountain Hall, Pine Mountain Road, Pine Mountain. The Hives are next to the hall which is located at the corner of Pine Mountain Road & Quarry Rd. The day will be a hands on day with our club hives demonstrating re-queening, hive management and much more. We encourage all members to come along and we hope as many of our newer members as possible are able to attend and see first hand how to open, re-queen and manage a hive. There will be lots of opportunities to get involved and ask questions of our experienced beekeepers. The day will start with morning tea at 10.00am then off to look at the bees and the day will finish with a BBQ lunch. The Club will provide morning tea and lunch at no cost to members. Remember to bring your bee gear or protective clothing, a chair, water and sun screen.

**PLEASE WRITE IT IN YOUR DIARIES AND KEEP THE DATE FREE.**

### Christmas Raffle 2015

Tickets to for this year's Christmas raffle will be available at the November meeting. The raffle will be drawn at the December meeting (Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December). The tickets are \$1.00 each and there are 5 tickets in a book. Members you may wish to take a book or two and sell them to workmates, family or friends. The Committee will also be grateful if any members wish to donate something towards the Christmas raffle. Remember as always that husbands wives and partners are welcome at the Christmas meeting

### Club Field Day – 2016

The date for our 2016 Field day is Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> March. This year we are returning to Peaks Crossing School which was a great venue and ideally located geographically. The school is delighted to have us return this year, so it's now full steam ahead to organise the event and speakers etc.: If you have any ideas or thoughts on how to make this year's event an even bigger success than last year, let us know. Finally, remember we need all hands on deck to make the day work so volunteers will be needed. Put the date and venue in your diary and keep it free.

### Steritech

Phillip Geeves and Grahame Yates will be going to Steritech early in November. Members that have put their name down for boxes to go please have them at Phillip's home by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. The boxes need to be closed up. Please contact Phillip Geeves if you need more information Tel : 3282 3989.

### Club Honey

The club hives have recently been robbed and there is some club honey available for members at a cost of \$135 per pail, 1 pail per member only. Please contact Secretary Noela is interested Tel : 3281 4165.

### Hives for Sale

As most, if not all members are aware, Rudy Guerin has been unwell now for some months and is currently unable to look after his bees. Reluctantly Rudy has decided to sell his hives and wait until his recovery is complete before replacing them. Rudy has five hives that he is happy to sell at \$250 each. If you are interested please talk to Ian Workman who is currently looking after the hives and he can give you more details. His contact details are Mob 0408 072 369 Home 3856 1515.

I spoke to Rudy this week and he tells me that he is progressing but not at the speed he had hoped. I am sure all our members will join me in once again wishing him well with his ongoing treatment.

*Cheers Phil C*

### Show Dates for 2015

Show dates for next year will be published in the Bee Flight early next year however if you are keen to plan ahead the schedule is now on our website notice Board and in the calendar.

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



## Bee Pics

My brother, received a call from a resident in Clayfield who advised that they had happily lived with this hive for 3 or 4 years. They thought it was lovely living with nature!! However her son was going to have a party in the back yard and they thought the bees may have objected to lots of strange lights and loud music. I think she may have been correct on this issue!!!! Accordingly she wished the hive to be removed! Kevin sought the assistance of myself and 2 other members of his bee club (north side). It was 1.1 metres long, 0.8 metres wide and 0.4 metres thick. There were so many bees that it was the consensus on the day that there had to be more than one queen. We commenced at 9:00 am and by 1:00 pm we had cut it down to a ball of about 15 kilos and the size of



three footballs, at which time we had had enough and put his last bit into a plastic bag. The rest (comb containing brood and some honey) we cut into frame size pieces and put into bee boxes, consisting of one full depth and 3 ideals. We went back that afternoon at 5:30 pm smoked them all in and my brother took it home. He advises me that they appear to like their new surroundings and he is confident that somehow we got the queen. I add that when it was about 20 kilos, I obviously had cut away too much of the tree and it fell to the ground. What a mess! We also took away 2 thirty kilo buckets filled with comb and honey. Through all this the bees didn't give us any trouble at all. All in all I thought it was a marvellous experience.

*Peter Anderson*



If anyone ever tells you that bees won't sting you through a veil don't always believe them! Last month we robbed a hive that I knew to be a bit aggressive. Well, that was an understatement ! They starting to sting through my suit before I even opened the hive. After we got the lid back on I had over 30 stings including this little ripper on my face. Good producers though.

*Cheers Phil C*



### Flora in November.

Blue Heliotrope, Carpet Weed, Flat Weed, Grey Ironbark, Mugga Iron Bark, Narrow Leaf Ironbark & Narrow Leaf, Grey Gum. You may also see some Tumbledown Gum, White Clover, and Yellow Box. In the Veggie patch look out for Pumpkins & Tomatoes.

### Know your Flora

I have heard a lot of talk about the “Maccas” over the past few weeks so I thought they would make a good subject for this month’s flora. Australian macadamia production stretches from Coffs Harbour on the NSW north coast to Mackay on the North Queensland coast. The Northern Rivers region of NSW is the largest production area. The fastest growth in production is currently occurring in the Bundaberg area which represents around 30 per cent of production. There are around 18,000 ha under cultivation comprising approximately 5.5 million trees. Annual production is approximately 40,000 tonnes in-shell or 12,000 tonnes of kernel. The farm gate value in 2013 was around \$160 million.



The majority of plantings in Australia are varieties of *Macadamia integrifolia*, with 80 per cent being Hawaiian selections and the remainder being Australian varieties. Harvest of macadamias commences in March and runs through to August. Approximately 70 per cent of production is exported internationally, principally to the United States, Japan and Europe, although China is an increasingly important market. Australia is currently the world’s largest producer and exporter of macadamias, followed by South Africa and Kenya.

#### Pollination information

Macadamia trees (*Macadamia integrifolia* and *M. tetraphylla*) are tall evergreen trees growing to 20 m in height. The flowers are 5–10 mm long and are borne on racemes with 100–150 flowers. There are about 2,500 flowers on a tree. Cross pollination has been reported to increase nut weight as well as the number of nuts. Nut set in Australia and New Zealand is usually less than 1 per cent. A three-year study of macadamia pollination in Queensland, Australia found pollination to be a limiting factor.

In Australia, macadamia will start flowering in August and September. The flowers produce both pollen and nectar. Flowers are visited by a range of insects including honey bees. Most honey bees collect nectar in the morning and some honey bees collect pollen in the afternoon. The flowers are attractive to bees for 3 days after opening. Each flower produces relatively small amounts of nectar. The optimal number of bee hives per ha is 5 to 8 based on research from both in Australia and overseas. As pollen collectors are more effective pollinators than nectar foragers, colonies should be managed to promote pollen collection eg high brood to bee ratios, sugar syrup feeding and pollen trapping or stripping.

*Cheers Phil C*

## 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. 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 \$6.00 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](mailto:rod@honeybee.com.au)

### Remembering Ron Smith

Each year at the December meeting we award the Ron Smith Memorial Trophy to the club's most successful exhibitor. Some members will not have had the opportunity to have meet Ron, or indeed know his history with the club. Below is a précis of Ron's association with the club and we respectfully acknowledge his contribution to the establishment of I&WMBA.

Ron joined the Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association in October 1992 and was President of the Club for the 1996-1997 year. Ron was a very active President. He helped Noel Scholz build the demonstration cage which is still used at the local shows. During his presidency, field days were organised for the first time for the members. Ron also rewrote the Club's Constitution. Due to illness, Ron had to give up beekeeping in the late 1990s and he passed away in September 1998.

## Regular Items

### 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.

### 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. We now have the new revised edition of the Bee Book by Peter Warhurst and Roger Goebel.



### November Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Our guest speaker this month will be Rhianna Mack who will be speaking on why honey is preferable to sugar.

### How I started in Bees.

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

- November - Phil Corbett
- As the December meeting is our Christmas event we will not have a speaker for this section, our next speaker will be in February.

### Committee Meeting

Next scheduled committee meeting will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November

### Supper Roster

- November - Alan Dearden, Frank Earley and Elizabeth Finney
- December - Ken Freiberg, Russell Gleeson and Cameron Grant.



### Room Set Up

- November - Alan Waters
- December - Paul Wesener

## Articles



### Fight against fake honey

A world organisation representing beekeepers and the honey industry is stepping up its fight against fake honey. The group called Apimondia said there had been a proliferation of fake honey, which generally was modified corn syrup, around the globe which was undercutting the price of the real stuff. Beechworth Honey's Jodie Goldsworthy was appointed president of the Oceania Region of Apimondia last week and is now part of a group created to intensify the fight against fake honey.

*"I think it was a monumental moment when the world together decided that this issue is something that threatens the very existence of beekeeping around the globe," she said.*

*A number of pests and diseases afflicting bees in different parts of the world means there has been a shortage of honey. That shortage has led to a cheaper alternative being created and widely distributed around the world. "They call it honey when it's not. It's just sugar syrups," Ms Goldsworthy said.*

The fake honey made in a laboratory is cheaper to produce than real honey from bees, and beekeepers say they can't compete on price. "Some of that product that I refuse to even call honey can be bought on the world market for about a third of the cost that beekeepers are paid in Australia," Ms Goldsworthy said. The group plans to better educate the public and law makers around the world about the existence of fake honey, push for greater testing of honey imports to identify fake honey, and pool resources to help improve that testing.

Ms Goldsworthy believes real honey producers and beekeepers need support so they can continue the pollination service they provide to the community, and can continue producing the natural product they are renowned for.

Source: ABC Rural

### Cadaga, NOT killing hives.

Tim Heard on ABC this morning (3<sup>rd</sup> October) talking native bees says they have now debunked the theory of the cadaga, *Corymbia torelliana*, resins killing hives. From what he said that bees died at a lower temperature than what the resin melts at and thus what has happened is the bees have died and then as the temperature rises further the resin melts.

Those who have heard me talk about this know that I have always questioned the original data. It was from Rockhampton and the bees died during a drought. I always questioned whether it was it the cadaga resin or the drought. Looks like now it must have been the drought.

*Thanks again this month to all those who forwarded me articles and information.*

*Cheers Phil C*

Guess people like Society for Growing Australian Plants will now have to change their hand outs and information. I know several Councils have taken out a lot of cadaga trees on this information.

Trevor Weatherhead