



BEE FLIGHT NEWSLETTER



Official Newsletter of the Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association Inc AGM Edition 2015

Presidents Report

The AGM is now behind us and the new committee will be working to ensure that our club continues to be the enjoyable club that it is. We are still receiving new applications for membership. So please if you can help out a new beekeeper in your area – please do so.

The Beaudesert Show is held on Friday 4th & Saturday 5th September. Our club will be there with its Honey Stand. It's a great country show and well worth the effort to attend – so please if you can lend a hand we would appreciate it.

September is a busy time for beekeepers! Many of us have full hives already from the recent honey flows mainly from the flowering of blue gums.

I attended a recent meeting of Club Presidents' along with Kellie Round. It was a well-attended meeting. Several items were on the agenda including a common educational programme for all clubs for new beekeepers,

Whether clubs should ensure registration of beekeepers, common liability for the whole of Queensland & these will all be looked at prior to the next meeting in November & whether the QBA could assist in supporting clubs by enhancing communication through their website. It was very worthwhile as we meet many new people interested in beekeeping.

Benita

Message from the Secretary

Please note: If you are not a financial member of the Club by the 1st September this will be the last newsletter you will receive. If you are not sure if you are financial or not please contact me and I will be more than happy to check. It would be a shame to miss out on our Newsletter and other events each month.

Cheers Noela

AGM



The Club's AGM for 2015 was held in Ipswich at the Humanities Centre on the 4th Aug following the General Meeting. The President Benita declared all the positions on the committee vacant and subsequently the new committee was appointed. Our new committee members' contact details are on page 2 of this newsletter and on our website. The photos above are left to right: President - Benita Ironside, Vice President - George Pallot, Secretary - Noela Geeves, Treasurer - Mark Meerwald. Committee members Phil Geeves - AKA, The Bee Guru, Grahame Yates, Beryl Salmond and Kellie Round.

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 - 1st September
 Committee Meeting - 7th September

Beaudesert Show
 4th & 5th September

Gold Coast Beekeepers
 Field Day 25th October

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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.

Current Happenings

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

Beaudesert Show

Volunteers are needed to help man the Club's honey stall at the Beaudesert show on Friday and Saturday 4th & 5th September – A roster will be available at the September meeting. If you have never been to the Beaudesert Show it is without doubt one of the best shows of the year, we hope to see you there.



Gold Coast Field Day

Gold Coast Beekeepers Field Day is on Sunday 25th October. If sufficient club members are interested in attending the club will hire a bus. The day includes honey, cake and biscuit competitions for the Inter Club Trophy, so please put some honey aside when you are extracting. More information in the October Bee Flight.

Ekka Show results 2015

Albert Payne	5 Firsts, 4 Seconds & 1 Third – Champion Honey and Most Successful exhibitor
Ken Freiberg	1 First, 3 Seconds & 4 Thirds
Phil & Noela Geeves	3 Firsts, 1 Second & 2 Thirds
Peter Waldron	2 Seconds & 3 Thirds
Ian Workman	1 Third

A big well done to all those that entered particularly Albert, an outstanding result. Thanks to Phil Geeves for the above results.



The photo above is of members attending the AGM.

Apis Mellifera Short Film

Check out the video by Michael Sutton on our website.

Cheers Phil

Flora in September.

Dogwood Flat Weed, Grey ironbark, Mugga Ironbark, Narrow-Leafed Ironbark, Narrow-Leaved Grey Gum, River Mangrove, Weeping Tea Tree, White Clover, Yapunyah, Yellow Box, White Mahogany, Tallowwood and Red Bottlebrush.

Know your Flora

Yellow Box - Australian Silver Oak *Eucalyptus melliodora* a medium to large tree H 15–30 m 'Melliodora' means odour of honey. This is a slow-growing graceful tree, densely crowned and slightly pendulous. The trunk bark is rough, fibrous and yellowish–brown to grey with yellow inner bark; it is very variable, from almost all rough to smooth. Bark on the branches is smooth, white to grey. Adult leaves are lanceolate to 7–10 cm x 10–15 mm. The flowers are simple, axillary and can be in pendulous terminal panicles of 7 flowers. The buds are 7–8 x 5–6 mm and club to diamond-shaped. Origin: Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland. This species produces inadequate pollen for brood rearing, and hives will deteriorate in the absence of good supporting pollen. If planting on farms, good pollen-producing species that flower concurrently should be added to support this excellent honey producer. The honey has a beautiful light amber colour and is aromatic, with a mild distinctive flavour that is smooth and buttery on the tongue. Fairly sweet, it is dense and slow to crystallise if monofloral. With favourable weather conditions yellow box can produce heavy honey flows (Clemson 1985).



Bee Pics



A Bee reflecting on its day



Fact or Fiction? Genetically Modified Ants Could Replace Honey Bees, Claims Monsanto Expert

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

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.



September Meeting – 1st September

Our speaker this month is Wendy Clarke-Hackett who is a member of the Australian Society for Growing Plants and Wendy has a nursery at Bundamba. Our main raffle prize will be a new smoker and a dipped ideal box.

How I started in Bees.

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

- September - George Pallot
- October Phil Corbett



Committee Meeting

Next scheduled committee meeting will be held on the 6th September

Supper Roster

- September - Ray Clarke, Tom and Dennis Cole
- Terry Cumner, Barbara Cush and Mary Davidson

Room Set Up

- September - Mike Trott
- October - Jon Vermeer



Club Notice Board

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 \$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

Bee Disease Diagnostic Service (DAF)

Under the Apiaries Act 1982, if an infection is suspected in an apiary (hive), the beekeeper must notify the nearest apiaries inspector within 48 hours of becoming aware of the problem. The Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory in Brisbane provides a brood-disease identification service. To use this service simply cut a piece of brood comb approximately 10 cm x 10 cm square containing suspect larvae, or place a matchstick in the cell of suspect larva, and obtain larval material on one end of the stick. Place the matchstick in a small vial ready to send to the laboratory. Wrap the comb or vial sample in paper (not plastic) and place in a padded postal bag or small box. Send the specimen to:

Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory, Health and Food Sciences Precinct. Speciman receipt Loading Block 12. 39 Kessells Road. Coopers Plains Qld 4108
Tel 07 3276 6062 or email bslcl@daf.qld.gov.au

Include a completed Brood or Adult Bees Specimen Advice Sheet - available from their website www.daf.qld.gov.au



Articles



Manuka honey: save it for your toast

The sweet taste of scientific success for a group of London primary school students may be a bitter blow for local Manuka honey producers. In a science project, the junior researchers have found the premium New Zealand product is no better for their health than regular honey. Their study was funded by the British Pharmacological Society and the experiment's protocols were reviewed and approved by the Imperial College London. But while the research might read like bad news for local honey producers, Peter Bray, managing director of Canterbury-based Airborne Honey, is not surprised at the findings: the Manuka honey story, he says, is akin to the Emperor's New Clothes fable.

"And it was kids who said the emperor didn't have any clothes on."

Manuka honey's health-giving properties are touted by celebrities like Gwyneth Paltrow and prescribed by alternative medicine practitioners. It commands premium prices around the world. But Bray advises consumers to "follow the science". "The only science that's viable for Manuka honey is for topical applications – yet it's all sold and promoted for ingestion." Bray said the fructose in Manuka honey was "hygroscopic", meaning it could help draw moisture from wounds. He said it was also possible some Manuka honey compounds, if they survived the stomach's acidity, could be beneficial for lower gut health.



Source <http://www.stuff.co.nz/>

Urban bee keepers fight to maintain healthy bee populations

Urban bee keepers are fighting to maintain healthy bee populations and reaping the benefits of owning bees, right in the centre of Sydney. Five years ago, Doug Purdie began The Urban Beehive, an organisation which aims to bring pollinators back into the city, by educating people about the benefits of bees and the worldwide decline of bee populations.

"Look it's a massive problem and people just aren't aware of it," said Mr Purdie. "Here in Australia we are really lucky, our bees are really healthy and that means we are sort of insulated from the problem.

"But overseas, in America, I think in April they lost 40 per cent of their bee population, the numbers are huge of bee losses around the world." Mr Purdie explained the biggest threats to worldwide bee populations is the Varroa mite, although Australia is in the unique position of being the only continent without the disease.

The other threat is colony collapse disorder, the cause of the disorder is not fully understood, however, it is believed to be related to habitat loss and insecticides. When asked how many hives it might take to save the bees, Mr Purdie said urban hives are not so much a rescue mission, as an education campaign.

"You're not going to save the world by owning one bee hive, but it's just important to think about bees, and think about what you're spraying and what you're planting and those things will make a massive difference."



Source ABC Rural; <http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/>

Students earn bee-plus for Varroa mite protection



Year seven students at Surrey Downs Primary School are raising money for a Varroa mite detection hive to help protect South Australia's honey bee colonies.

The students are hoping to raise \$800 to purchase a Landcare Australia sentinel bee hive. A remote surveillance hive used to monitor bee populations near international shipping ports. They have been learning about the threats facing bees in Australia from monocultures, pesticides, flowerless landscapes and Varroa mite, and the importance

bees play in Australia's agriculture. The parasitic mite is a major threat as it attacks bee colonies and weakens them by feeding on the bee's blood.

The student's bee hive will be placed in Port Adelaide's ship docking area and used to attract, monitor and capture bees that may carry the mites into Australia through cargo on international ships. An initiative of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, the special hives use smart phone technology and solar power to monitor populations and trap suspect bees. Australia has the only remaining mainland colony of honey bees yet to be infected by the Varroa destructor or Varroa mite.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news>

Footnote:

Hopefully you will have noticed a new newsletter format this month. As I have now moved to a Mac from a PC I have taken the opportunity to align the format of the newsletter with our website newsletters. Hope you like it and any suggestions for new items or information would be welcome.

Cheers Phil C. Email beeflight@abclass.com.au