



Bee Flight



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

President's Report.

May has been a particularly busy month for the club. Our display, practical demonstrations and sales of honey and related products at the Ipswich Show was a huge success. The efforts of our members has again helped the club to maintain a good financial position from our sales at the show. Again my thanks to all our wonderful volunteers and the committee for the organization of this event.

Our Library display has been receiving many positive comments and will continue until the 10th June. My thanks to Noel Scholz who attended the Urban Buzz night to give out honey samples and to Trevor Nardi who spoke at the evening. Over 100 people attended the evening! It appears that beekeeping is becoming a popular hobby and it has been great for the committee to have so much support for our members trying to cope with all the interest and activities.

We are drawing close to our Annual General Meeting and I urge all members to think about nominating for a committee position. No club can survive without new and invigorating ideas, which is what new committee members bring. We are still looking for a Treasurer – Phil Geeves is currently filling this position as well as carrying out many other activities for the club. No one on the committee will be there forever, so I do urge you to think about taking a role within the club for a couple of years. In this way, the load can be shared and the club enriched by new ideas. Please remember membership fees are also due.

For myself, I am looking forward to a couple of quieter months in June and July to prepare for Spring Beekeeping.

Cheers 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 10th June

Club Meeting - 2nd June
Committee meeting - 8th June
Kalbar Show 12th - 13th June
QBA Field Day 13th June
Rosewood Show 19th - 21st June
Redcliffe Show 26th - 28th June

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.

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 \$2.**



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Current Happenings

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

Beaudesert Show

The Beaudesert show is our next club show event. All members are asked to keep either Friday or Saturday 4th or 5th September free to help man the Club's stand at the Beaudesert Show. Secretary Noela will begin a roster sheet at our June meeting. 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.

Show dates for 2015

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

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

Phil Geeves will not be available to take Members entries to the Kalbar, Rosewood & Redcliffe shows. Ken Freiberg has kindly donated his services to take members entries to these shows. If members require any information about these shows, please contact Ken on 3288 9873 and he will be able to help you.

Entry forms for the Royal Queensland Show need to be lodged by Friday 3 July. No late entries will be accepted at this show. Entries can be lodged online. Phil Geeves and Ken Freiberg will be taking down the honey entries on Saturday 1st August.

Show Results

Marburg	
Name	Results
Albert Payne	6 Firsts, 4 Seconds & 1 Third
Ken Freiberg	6 Firsts, 5 Seconds & 1 Third Most Successful Exhibitor
Phil & Noela Geeves	1 First & 3 Seconds, Champion Honey
Frank Earley	1 First & 1 Second
Peter Waldron	3 Firsts & 1 Second
Nick Manning	1 Second
Meng Round	2 Firsts, Reserve Champion
Ipswich	
Albert Payne	9 Firsts, 1 Second & 2 Thirds Champion Honey & Champion Beeswax
Ken Freiberg	6 Firsts, 11 Seconds & 6 Thirds Most Successful Exhibitor in Wax, Honey Classes & in Apiculture Section
Phil & Noela Geeves	1 First, 2 Seconds & 3 Thirds
Frank Earley	1 First & 2 Seconds
Peter Waldron	3 Firsts & 2 Thirds Most Successful Exhibitor in Novice Section
Nick Manning	1 Second
Boonah	
Albert Payne	5 Firsts & 6 Seconds
Ken Freiberg	8 Firsts & 5 Seconds Most Successful Exhibitor in Wax Section
Phil & Noela Geeves	1 First & 1 Second
Nick Manning	1 Second
Meng Round	2 Firsts Most Successful Exhibitor in Novice Section

Flora. In June we should be seeing

Broad Leaved Ironbark, Mountain Coolibah, Dogwood, Paper Barked Tea Tree, White Box, Yapunyah, Blue Gum, Spotted Gum and Swamp Messmate.

Know your Flora - White Box



George Bentham described the White Box in 1867 from material collected by botanist and explorer, Allan Cunningham, along the Macquarie River. Reaching 15–25 metres high, the white box has a branched spreading crown with a straight trunk for around half its total height. Its trunk may reach 0.5 metres diameter at chest height. It has fibrous pale grey bark. The juvenile leaves are round and pale. The white flowers appear in the autumn from

March to May. Before European settlement, White Box was the dominant species found in large continuous forests stretching from Southern Queensland, through Western NSW and Victoria, it is now listed as a “critically endangered” ecological community under the Australian Federal EPBC Act and its management is bound to the Matters of National Environmental Significance guidelines. When listed as critically endangered in 2006, the Australian Government estimated that as little of 0.1% of the original White-Box Grassy Woodland exists in pristine or near pristine condition, and these examples are noted as being extremely rare, and usually quite small in size.



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 Casas 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.

June Meeting

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".

- June - Jared Armstrong
- July - Stephen Baxendale

Committee Meeting

Next scheduled committee meeting will be held on the 8th June

Supper Roster

- June - Jon Vermeer, Alan Waters and Ian Workman
- July - Grahame Yates, Peter Anderson & Bill Andrews
- **Room Set Up**
- June - Darryl Ryan
- July - Caleb Spicer





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

Annual subscriptions

Annual membership dues are now payable. The dues are \$25.00 per single membership and \$30.00 per family membership. Please see Treasurer Phil Geeves, Kellie Round or Beryl Salmond at the June meeting to pay your fees.

Hives Wanted

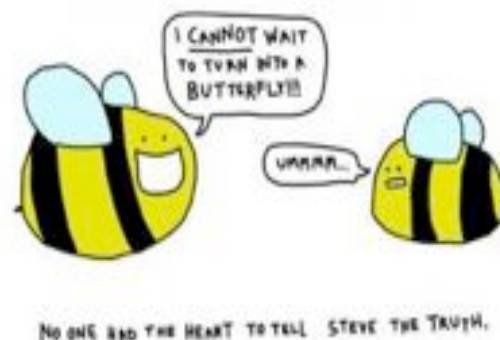
Margaret Phelps (ph 3807 6462) who lives at Beenleigh backing onto bush, is looking for a beekeeper to leave two to three hives on her property. If you are interested please identify yourself clearly to Margaret when you phone.

Qld Beekeepers Association's Annual State Conference

The Queensland Beekeepers Association is holding a Field Day on Saturday 13th June commencing at 9.00 am at the Ormiston Sate School. Entry is by Wellington Street Ormiston and there is ample parking and also adjacent to the Ormiston Railway Station. There will be a large range of exhibitors, speakers and presentations as well as a question and answer panel. There will be food and drinks available throughout the day. Entry is \$5.00 per person and that includes a ticket in a multidraw raffle. If there are enough club members interested in going the Committee will look into hiring a coach. Think about it and numbers will be called for at the June Meeting.

Outstanding Library Books

There are some outstanding library books. Could all members check to see if they have any of the outstanding books and return them to the next meeting. If you are not sure if you have one or not, please see our Librarian Wayne Rossiter and he can check his register.



Articles

Things you may not know about a honeybee

- Bees are the only insects in the world that make food that people can eat
- Honey contains all of the substances needed to sustain life, including enzymes, water, minerals and vitamins
- Eating honey can help make you smarter! It is the only food to contain 'pinocembrin' that is an antioxidant that improves brain function
- Many plants rely on insects like bees in order to be pollinated; which is why they provide nectar to say thanks
- A bee's wings beat 190 times a second, that's 11,400 times a minute!
- Worker bees, which are all female, are the only ones who will attack you, and only if they feel threatened
- It has been estimated that it would take 1,100 bee stings to produce enough venom to be fatal
- Each colony smells different to bees, this is so they can tell where they live!
- There are 900 cells in a bee's brain
- Bees have two separate stomachs; one for food and another just for nectar
- Honey has natural preservatives so that it won't go bad
- A third of all the plants we eat have been pollinated by bees
- Bees have been around for more than 30 million years
- Bees communicate by smells called 'pheromones' and by performing special 'dances'
- There are lots of different types of honey which taste different depending on the flowers used to make it.

Bee Transformation

Here's an article on showing a bee developing in the cell (short video).

<http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20150522-the-transformation-of-a-bee-in-60-seconds>

(Thanks to Lloyd Hancock for this information)

Keeping Killer Bees Out



Dr. Nadine Chapman, from the University of Sydney's School of Biological Sciences has developed a genetic test that can identify killer bees.

Credit: University of Sydney

A genetic test that can prevent the entry of 'killer' bees into Australia and their spread around the world has been created by researchers at the University of Sydney and their collaborators at York University in Canada. "Having a tool that can identify desirable and undesirable bee subspecies will be of value to breeding and conservation programs throughout the world. Pollination of crops by honeybees adds many billions of dollars to the world economy, so any strategy that can prevent losses is an important contribution to food security," said Dr Nadine Chapman from the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Sydney.

She is lead author of an article on the research published in *Molecular Ecology Resources*.

"A number of countries have export conditions aimed at preventing any possible introduction of killer bees. Now our test will provide them with certainty and allow the safe import of bees without this biosecurity risk," Dr Chapman said.

The news is of critical importance to Australia, which produces an estimated \$4 to \$6 billion of farm and garden crops that rely on honeybee pollination.

Australia faces the paradoxical problem of needing to import bees resistant to a pest that threatens to devastate Australia's bee population but being unable to do so while the risk of introducing 'killer' bees still exists.

The looming threat to Australian honeybees comes from the Varroa mite, present in all bee-keeping countries except Australia. It devastates colonies by sucking bees' blood and spreading blood-borne diseases.

School of Biological Sciences' researchers, working with the United States Department of Agriculture, have previously found that no Australian honeybees have resistance to the mite and it could destroy bee stocks within a couple of years.

"The answer is to import Varroa-resistant bee semen and queen bees so we can breed resistance into our bee stocks as a form of 'inoculation' that could protect our bees," said Dr Chapman.

"Until now this option has been restricted because Australian beekeepers are only able to import bees from the small number of countries that are free of 'killer bees', which originated in Africa.

"As the name implies, killer bees, (as Africanised bees are commonly called), are highly aggressive and are considered unacceptable for beekeeping. It is assumed that they would replace our current honeybee populations in the key beekeeping regions."

Dr Chapman worked with Professor Ben Oldroyd from the School of Biological Sciences and with researchers at York University in Canada, the US Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Council in South Africa.

The researchers developed a test that identifies how much of three main ancestral lineages -- Eastern European, Western European and African -- are present. To lower the risk of killer bees coming to Australia, those with high African ancestry will be denied entry.

"Using this test Australia will be able to import honeybees, including Varroa resistant bees, from countries where killer bees are present, including the United States," Dr Chapman said.

Associate Professor Amro Zayed, a researcher from York University said, "Our genetic test is highly accurate, which is considerably better than the old tests that have a high tendency to misclassify hybrid bees."

Dr Chapman is now working on making the genetic test more affordable and plans to work with the United States Department of Agriculture to develop a protocol for the importation of Varroa-resistant bees.

Australia's bee importation regulations are currently being reviewed by the Department of Agriculture.