

Bee Flight



Presidents Report

It was pleasing to see such a great roll up of new beekeepers at our recent practical day. Whilst reading and trawling the internet can give you a great working knowledge of bees and beekeeping, nothing can replace the practical experience of viewing and discussing the workings of an active hive. Also remember that irrespective of how simple you think a question is, I encourage everyone to ask without fear of embarrassment when at our practical days or at our general meetings. We all started in the same situation and we learn from mistakes. I have made plenty over the years and I am still learning. If you do have a question at one of our meetings and you do not wish to ask it during the meeting, simply approach one of the committee or one of our many more experienced members and they will be able to help you.

Christmas is just around the corner and our December meeting will be a family night instead of the normal meeting. A huge raffle will be conducted and terrific supper will be provided. Finally could I remind all members to wear their name badges at the meetings and events. We have well over 150 members and this helps us all to recognise other members.



Club Meetings

Our club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except January)

Venue

W.G. Hayden Humanities Centre
Cnr. South and Nicholas Streets, Ipswich
7.30pm.

All welcome.

Club Registration

Before Club meetings, all members are required to pay a \$2.00 registration fee.

Dates to Remember

Club Meeting - 1st November
Committee Meeting - 7th November
Christmas Meeting - 6th December

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

Flora - 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

Show Dates for 2017

Show dates for next year will be published in the Bee Flight early next year. However if you are keen to plan ahead, the dates I could find are now on our website <http://www.honey.org.au/events/>

Christmas Raffle

Tickets for this year's Christmas raffle will be available at the November meeting. The raffle will be drawn at the December meeting (Tuesday 6th 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. For the purpose of catering we will ask for a show of hands at the November meeting for those of you that are bringing a guest along.

Ron Smith Trophy

Each year at the December meeting we award the Ron Smith Memorial Trophy to the club's most successful exhibitor. Many members will not have had the opportunity to have met Ron, or indeed know his history with the club. 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. 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.

Join us at the December meeting to see who is this year's most successful exhibitor. Who knows, it might be you next year.

Website

Our new website is now mostly complete and new members can now complete their membership application on line. You may also notice that the newsletter is now also in the same theme as the website. If you have any other ideas on how to make our new site more useful please let me know.

Phil Corbett www.honey.org.au

Practical Day

The practical day on the 9th of October was a great success, with 56 attendees on the day. Following morning tea we opened the club hives and worked through how to split a Nuc from a hive and how to Re-Queen a hive.

More pictures on the website



Library

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 in photocopying our newsletter.

Wiring Board (Members only)

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 Hire (Members only)

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

Club Hand Extractor (Members only)

The club has purchased a second hand extractor so we now have two for hire out to the members who only have a small number of frames to extract. To hire one of the extractors 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.

Apithor Beetle Traps (Members only)

The club currently has stock of beetle traps. They will be available at the next meeting at the cost of \$6.00 each. If you need large numbers of these please advise Noela beforehand.

Nucleus (Nuc) Hives

As the club has limited capacity to create Nucs and demand outstrips supply, we offer them preferentially to newer members that do not have any bees. Club nucleus hives are \$85.00 each with 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.

Kellie Round [email: malkelliem8@bigpond.com](mailto:malkelliem8@bigpond.com) Tel: 0407 114 513



Honey Buckets, Bottles and Jars (Members only)

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.

- Plastic 1 kg jars are 70c each and are available in 50 or 100 jar cartons.
- New 20 litre honey buckets with lids are \$7.00 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.

The club does not stock or supply items other than the items mentioned.

November Meeting

Our guest speaker this month will be Col Webb speaking about Australian Native Bees

How I started in Bees.

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

- November - Frank Moeller

Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on the 7th November.

Supper Roster

If you are on the supper roster or room set up and unable to attend the meeting please ensure you advise Secretary Noela so that a substitute member can be found.

- November - Darryl Ryan, Lilly Sellars, Caleb Spicer and Darren Steel.
- December - Mark Meerwald, Neil Summerson, Mike and Eunice Trott.

Room Set up

- November - Ray Clarke
- December - Tom Cole

Beeswax Wanted

Both Rod Palmer at CB Palmer & Co, and Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies are interested in buying beeswax, any quantity, small or large.

See Rod or Karen at the Club meeting or phone Rod 0417 796 257

Contact Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies on 3376 5404.

Helping Hands Programme

by Barbara Cush

The Helping Hands Initiative has been established to assist any member of the Police service and their family in time of critical need, for example for an urgent medical procedure they cannot afford or a financial crisis. Since set up, more than \$2.4 million has been given to members and families of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) in their time of need and in many cases saved lives. Donations are made to the Helping Hand Programme by QPS members directly from their pay but not all officers are members.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Queensland beekeepers are teaming up with Community Supporting Police Inc. to drive awareness of the importance of BEES in the food chain and to promote the Helping Hands Fund across the entire Police Community.

The Helping Hands "Sweeten the Pot" program is focused on driving contributions by Police to the Helping Hands fund, as each new contributor will be rewarded by providing them a sample of some of the world's best honey.....YOURS! Sweeten the Pot is poised to be a wonderful success and we need your support. A collaborative project between beekeepers across Queensland and the Queensland Police Service, Sweeten the Pot will deliver benefits for beekeepers, clubs and beyond.

We know that unfortunately most of our interactions with the Police is in the form of minor infractions like speeding tickets, but they do more than patrol our roads. Major crimes, domestic violence, child protection, homicide, and vice are all areas where most of us haven't seen the Police come into their own.

To find out how to become part of this meaningful program, go to www.sweetenthepot.org , donate a small amount of honey and make a big difference to the wives, husbands and children of police in their critical time of need.

Thank you & Many thanks to the Club for allowing me to promote this event.
Barbara Cush (Member of Ipswich and West Moreton Beekeepers)

Bee Reading



Michael Howcroft removed what he believed was a swarm in Sherwood from a shed wall. He was told it has been there for about 3 weeks "Going by the larvae and eggs I would say that's about correct. The interesting part about this swarm was its temperament and that the queen was marked and was this year's queen. The marking can be seen in the photo but not clearly. On closer inspection of the mark I would say the workers have been trying to take the paint off with some success".

APIS CERANA AND VARROA JACOBSONI IN TOWNSVILLE – NO. 12

6 October, 2016 Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

On the following page is a press release put out by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Where the foraging cerana bees have been found in North Ward is about 4 kilometres north west from 11P which was the original find at the Port of Townsville.

Trevor Weatherhead

Changes have been made to the previous biosecurity restricted zone that was declared around the Port of Townsville to now cover the entire Townsville City Council area. The restricted zone was first put in place after varroa mites were found on Asian honey bees at the Port of Townsville in June. The zone was established to restrict the movement of potential carriers of varroa mite to prevent further spread. Biosecurity Queensland Varroa Mite Response Coordinator, Craig Jennings, said the zone has been extended to help with the eradication of varroa mites in Townsville. "We initially had a Movement Control Order that spanned 10 kilometres around the initial varroa mite detection," Mr Jennings said.

"We have now amended that Movement Control Order to include the whole of the Townsville City Council area.

"This has occurred following the additional detection of a varroa mite on Asian honey bees at Annandale and the approval of a national eradication program for varroa mite in Townsville," he said. "The types of items that the restrictions apply to have also changed. The restrictions now only apply to live bees, bee hives or any part of a bee hive that may be carrying live bees, including adults, brood, larvae and eggs." This amendment was based on advice from a panel of scientific and technical experts on what items had the greatest risk of spreading the mite.

"Townsville beekeepers who want to move live bees, bee hives or any other item that may contain live bees out of the City Council area, will need to apply for a biosecurity instrument permit. "The restrictions do not apply to bees or bee hives that have originated from outside the Townsville City Council area and that are simply transiting through the area." Queen bees and escorts can travel through Townsville by mail without a permit provided they are in sealed, unopened packages. Closed hives can also travel through the area as long as they do so without stopping," he said. "We are asking Townsville residents to remain vigilant and keep reporting bees to us, as foraging Asian honey bees have recently been found at North Ward, which is outside of the Townsville Port and Hyde Park areas where foraging Asian honey bees have previously been sighted. "If you see a swarm or nest, or just a couple of unusual bees, make sure you let us know by calling Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23."

Varroa mites have the potential to significantly damage the Australian bee industry, disrupting honey production and pollination services. For more information about the Movement Control Order, to apply for a biosecurity instrument permit or to see a map of the affected area, visit www.daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

Beekeeping family stung by north Queensland council laws

A north Queensland hobbyist beekeeper says he is outraged after being forced to get rid of his four hives, following pressure from local government.



Finch Hatton resident Barry Parkins has been breeding native and honeybees on his hinterland property for two years. But after the Mackay Regional Council came out to his property to investigate two complaints, Mr Parkins said he is being forced to rezone his land in order to keep the beehives in his backyard.

"Under Rural Use Clause 8.2.2, the keeping of any insect of any sort is not allowed — it's basically against the council laws, this also includes native bees as well," Mr Parkins said.

"It's quite a ridiculous situation they're setting up — with the wording, even a child with an ant farm can now also be prosecuted by council," he said. And Mr Parkins said rezoning his property was far too expensive.

"The costs can range anywhere from \$1600 to \$24,000 — honestly, for the average bee person, where do we get the money for that?"

"We will have no pollinators left in Mackay," he said.

In a statement, the Mackay Regional Council said the rezoning process was used to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of the community.

"The keeping of bees is defined as Animal Husbandry under the Mirani Planning Scheme," wrote Community and Client Services director Bridget Mather.

"If the current zoning of a beekeeper is residential, they would be required to submit a development application for a Material Change of Use to seek approval to conduct a bee keeping operation."

Source: ABC Tropical North By Rachel Riga and Harriet Tatham

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-10-05/beehives-creating-a-sitcky-situation-in-mackay/7904782>

Believe it or not, the bees are doing just fine

You've probably heard the bad news by now that bees were recently added to the endangered species list for the first time. But if you're part of the 60 percent of people who share stories without actually reading them, you might have missed an important detail: namely, that the newly endangered bees are a handful of relatively obscure species who live only in Hawaii.



The bees you're more familiar with — the ones that buzz around your yard dipping into flowers, making honey, pollinating crops and generally keeping the world's food supply from collapsing? Those bees are doing just fine, according to data released by the USDA this year.

In 2015, there were 2.66 million commercial honey-producing bee colonies in the United States. That's down slightly from the 2.74 million colonies in 2014, which represented a two-decade high. The number of commercial bee colonies is still significantly higher than it was in 2006, when colony collapse disorder — the mass die-offs that began afflicting U.S. honeybee colonies — was first documented. Those 2.66 million colonies represent a greater number than just about any year since the late 1990s. How's that possible, considering all the die-offs we've been hearing about?

As I wrote last year, America's beekeepers are busy at work managing their colonies and replacing the ones that die off. Beekeepers have a number of ways to replenish their stock: They can split one healthy colony into two. They can also breed their own queen bees, which can be sold to other keepers in need of a queen to start a new colony.

Recent research has shown that the use of certain insecticides called neonicotinoids has been linked to declines in wild bee populations. But assessing the true magnitude of the effect is difficult, because it's a lot harder to survey wild bee populations than domesticated ones.

For now, the placement of seven bee species into the Endangered Species List might be less of a sign that America's bees are in dire straits and more of an indicator that our other 3,993 bee species are probably doing fine.

By and large, our domesticated honey producers appear to be doing just fine, too.

By Christopher Ingraham - Washington Post

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wnk/wp/2016/10/10/believe-it-or-not-the-bees-are-doing-just-fine/>

I&WMBA Committee 2016 - 2017

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