

Bee Flight



President's Report



Welcome to our June Newsletter. Well after another busy few weeks in the apiary things are now starting to slow down. The bees are settled down for winter, entrances are reduced and food stores checked. My final inspection revealed little or no honey production in the past few weeks so, I'm now looking to next year and hopefully a better season.

If your bees are short on honey for the winter you will need to keep an eye on them and consider if, and when, you might need to support your colonies with feeding. It is important to know the difference between stimulus feeding and substance feeding. Stimulating your hives too early in the winter can cause major issues. We have included information regarding feeding bees in the "articles" section of this newsletter.

This month was also the Ipswich Annual Show. This event is a major contributor to our clubs' funds and helps promote the benefits of keeping bees. Many thanks to everyone that helped with the set up and take down of the stall and to all those who helped man the stall over the three days. Numbers were down on the Friday due to the wet weather but Saturday was busy. Sunday was slow to start but picked up about lunch time.

I will be away at the time of the next general meeting so George Pallot will Chair the meeting (thanks George). See you all in July.

*Phil Geeves
Club President*

June 2017 Edition

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

Next Club Meeting - 6th June
Committee Meeting - 12th June
Newsletter email - 26th June
Club events are on the website
<http://www.honey.org.au>

Questions ?

Don't forget you can submit written questions on beekeeping at each club meeting. Just pop them in the container near the entrance on your way in.



*Noela Geeves
Club Secretary*

Missing Club Equipment



We are still missing one of the Club's nuc boxes. It has not yet been returned to Phil Geeves. If the person who is still holding the box can contact one of the committee we will come and get it.

Also the wax embedder and the wiring board has not been returned to Noela and has been out on loan for several months. Could the person please contact Noela.



We respectfully request that all Club equipment is returned promptly. At this point we operate on trust and members do not need to sign for loan equipment or Nucs. We would like to continue as is, but we do need members to play by the rules. Phil & Noela's contact details are on the last page of this newsletter. I will also send a separate email to all members regarding this. As we have not had the equipment returned, I can only assume that some members don't read the newsletter.

Ipswich Show



Thanks to all who helped with the Ipswich Show from the setting up on the Thursday night, to the volunteers over the 3 days manning the club's stall and the packing up on the Monday.



Annual General Meeting

The Club's Annual General Meeting for 2017/18 is on Tuesday 1st August. A nomination form is included with this Newsletter. Nominate who you would like to see on the Committee for 2017 - 2018. The forms must be back to the Secretary by 18th July.

Name Badges (Important please)



We ask that all members wear their **name badge** at all club events and meetings. There are nearly 300 individual members and it's almost impossible to remember everyone's name plus it also shows that you are a member and it helps with introductions. If you have lost yours, just ask Noela and she will organise another one for you.

Beaudesert Show

The Beaudesert Show is our next club show event. All members are asked to keep either Friday the 8th or Saturday the 9th September free to help man the Club's stand. 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 Entries

As Phil Geeves is away at present Ken Freiberg has offered to help members to get entries to local agriculture shows during June. Please contact Ken directly if you would like his help. Tel: 3288 9873

Show Dates 2017

<u>Boonah</u>	<u>2nd & 3rd June 2017</u>	<u>www.boonahshowsociety.org.au</u>
<u>Toogoolawah</u>	<u>9th & 10th June 2017</u>	<u>www.toogoolawahshowsociety.org.au</u>
<u>Lowood</u>	<u>16th & 17th June 2017</u>	<u>www.lowwoodshowsociety.com.au</u>
<u>Kalbar</u>	<u>23rd & 24th June 2017</u>	<u>www.kalbarshow.net.au</u>
<u>Rosewood</u>	<u>30th June & 1st July 2017</u>	<u>www.rosewoodshow.com</u>
<u>Redcliffe</u>	<u>30th June to 2nd July 2017</u>	<u>www.redcliffeshow.org.au</u>
<u>EKKA</u>	<u>11th - 20th August 2017</u>	<u>www.ekka.com.au</u>
<u>Beaudesert</u>	<u>8th & 9th September 2017</u>	<u>www.beaudesertshow.org.au</u>

Membership

Join or Renew Your Membership



Membership Fees for the 2017 - 18 year are due now.
Please see Treasurer Kellie Round at the meeting to pay your annual fees.

Membership is \$25.00 for single and \$30.00 for a family membership.

If you wish to pay by direct debit please contact Kellie for our bank account details. Kellie's number is 0407 114 513.

Club Honey For Sale

The club has some 500g bottles of Bush Honey and Tea Tree Honey for sale to members for \$3.00 per bottles. Please ring Noela to order.

Bee Site

A bee site is available in the Bundamba Area. Please ring Noela if you are interested, or see her at the June Meeting.

QBA Annual Conference

Queensland Beekeepers' Association (QBA) Annual Conference will be held on the 29th and 30th June 2017 at the Gympie Showgrounds. There will also be a Field Day on Saturday 1st July 2017 at the Gympie Showgrounds. The full program will be available shortly.

Keynote speakers will be: Professor Stephen Martin, Chair in Animal Ecology at University of Salford, Manchester, England and Dr Mark Goodwin, Principal Honeybee Scientist at Plant and Food Research, New Zealand

More information go to <http://qbabees.org.au/>

Flora - June

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.

Show Results

Marburg	
Phil & Noela Geeves	4 Firsts 2 Seconds & Champion Honey
Albert Payne	7 Firsts, 7 Seconds, 4 Thirds & Reserve Champion
Ken Freiberg	2 Firsts, 4 Seconds & 7 Thirds
Peter Waldron	2 Firsts, 2 Seconds & 3 Thirds
Beau Rush	4 Firsts
Ipswich	
Ken Freiberg	6 Firsts, 5 Seconds & 7 Thirds – Champion Honey
Phil & Noela Geeves	4 Firsts, 1 Second & 1 Third
Ken Freiberg	2 Firsts, 8 Seconds & 6 Thirds – Champion Bees Wax
Peter Waldron	4 Firsts, 3 Seconds & 3 Thirds
Beau Rush	2 Firsts & 1 Second
Naomi Jones	1 First

Articles

Feeding honey bee colonies to prevent starvation

This note provides information for beekeepers about feeding bee colonies with sugar to prevent starvation when they have little or no food and supplies of nectar are poor or unavailable.

Introduction

Honey bees store honey in the hive to provide food for winter and for other times when there are few or no nectar secreting flowers available. When nectar is in short supply or unavailable, bees draw on their honey stores in the hive. During these times, it is important to frequently monitor the amount of honey in the hive because when it has all gone, the colony will starve.

Starvation can be prevented by moving bees to an area where plants are yielding nectar or by feeding them white table sugar, or syrup made with white sugar. Never use raw, brown and dark brown sugar, and molasses as these may cause dysentery in bees.

Honey as feed for bees

It is extremely important not to feed honey to bees unless it is from your own disease free hives. Spores of American foul-brood disease can be present in honey. Feeding honey from an unknown source, for example, a supermarket or even another beekeeper, may cause infection in your hives. If you feed suitable honey to your bees, it must be placed inside the hive. Never place honey in the open outside the hive as this is illegal under the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994*.

How and when to feed bees

If sugar syrup or dry sugar is fed in the open, bees from nearby managed and feral colonies will be attracted. You will end up feeding other bees as well as your own. Besides being a waste of money, feeding in the open may cause robber bee activity in the apiary and possible interchange of bee disease pathogens.

Placement of sugar syrup or dry sugar in hives is best done towards evening to minimise any tendency for bees to rob the hives that are fed.

Making and feeding sugar syrup

There are differing views about the correct amount of sugar in syrup. Some beekeepers prefer a ratio of one part of sugar to one part of water, measured by weight (known as 1:1). Others prefer a dense syrup of two parts of sugar to one part of water (known as 2:1). Generally, 1:1 syrup is used to supplement honey stores, stimulate colonies to rear brood and encourage drawing of comb foundation particularly in spring. ***The stronger syrup is used to provide food when honey stores in the hive are low. Measuring the sugar and water by weight or volume is all right because there is no need to be 100% exact about the sugar concentration.***

Heat the water in a container large enough to hold both the water and sugar. As soon as the water has begun to boil gently, remove the container from the heat source. Pour in the sugar and stir the mixture until the sugar crystals are dissolved. Never boil the mixture as the sugars may caramelize and may be partially indigestible and toxic to bees. Always let the syrup cool to room temperature before feeding it to bees.

The cooled syrup can be given to hives using one of the following four methods.

Container with sealable lid

Fill a clean jar, tin with a push-down lid, or similar container with sugar syrup. Drill or punch the lid with 6 to 8 very small holes. Cut two 12 mm high risers from a piece of wood and place them across the top bars of the frames that are in the top box of the hive. Invert the filled container and place it on the risers. Next, place an empty super on the hive to enclose the feeder and then replace the hive lid. The risers provide a bee space between the top bars and the holes in the container lid. It is a good idea to remove the cardboard insert commonly found in jar lids.

Plastic bag

Partially fill a plastic freezer bag with sugar syrup, about half full. Gently squeeze the bag to expel all the air. Tie the neck of the bag using an elastic band. Place the bag on the top bars of the frames in the top box of the hive, under the hive cover. Use a brad or very small diameter nail to punch about 6-8 small holes into the upper surface of the bag. The bees will suck the syrup through the holes. Never put the holes on the under surface of the bag as the syrup may leak out faster

than the bees can gather it. This may lead to loss of syrup outside the hive and cause robbing by nearby bees. It is important to have a bee space between the upper surface of the bag and the under surface of the hive lid so the bees can gain access to the syrup. If required, a wooden riser of the dimensions of the hive may be used to raise the lid.

Shallow tray

Place sugar syrup in a shallow tray, such as aluminium foil tray, under the hive lid. Bees need to be able to reach the syrup without falling into the liquid and drowning. Some grass straw or wood straw of the type used in cooling devices may be placed in the syrup for this purpose. It is important not use any straw or floating that has been treated, or been in contact, with chemicals as this may be hazardous to bees. The hives should be on level ground to prevent loss of syrup and a riser may need to be used if the tray is not shallow.

Frame feeder

Place sugar syrup in a 'frame or division board feeder'. This is a container, the size of a full-depth Langstroth frame, that has an open top and which sits in the super as a normal frame does. The feeder requires a flotation material or other means to allow bees to access the syrup without drowning.

How often to feed

It is normal for bees to remove syrup from a feeder, reduce the water content and store it in the combs as if it were honey. Whatever feeder is used, a medium to strong colony will usually empty it in a matter of days.

For colonies with virtually no stored honey and no incoming nectar, the initial feed will be largely determined by the amount of brood, the size of the colony and to some degree, the size of the container used to hold the syrup. It is safer to over-feed a colony than to skimp and possibly cause the death of the colony. Some beginners have tried tablespoons of syrup, but this amount is much too small. An initial feed of around 1-3 litres could be tried. It is then important to frequently check the combs to see how much syrup has been stored. This will give a guide as to how often and how much syrup should be given. Feeding can be stopped when nectar becomes available.

Properly ripened syrup should have a moisture content of around 18%. Syrup that is not ripened adequately will ferment and adversely affect bees. Colonies with insufficient stores for winter should be given enough syrup to boost their stores before the cold weather of autumn sets in. This will enable the bees to fully process the syrup.

Feeding dry sugar

Medium to strong colonies can also be fed dry white table sugar placed on hive mats or in trays under the hive lid. Bees require water for liquefying the sugar crystals. They will obtain supplies from sources outside the hive and sometimes use condensation that may occur inside the hive. Some beekeepers prefer to wet the sugar with water to prevent it from solidifying. In effect, this creates a partial syrup. Weak colonies may be incapable of gathering sufficient water and feeding of dry sugar to them is not recommended. Regardless of colony size, feeding dry sugar works best during autumn and spring when humidity is relatively high. The hot, dry conditions of summer make it hard for bees to dissolve sugar crystals into a liquid.

It may be preferable for a colony at starvation level to be first fed syrup before dry sugar is given. This will give the bees immediate food without the need to liquefy crystals. Bees will generally not use dry sugar when they are able to collect sufficient nectar for the colony's needs. The sugar will remain in the hive and in some cases will be deposited by the bees outside the hive entrance. A small amount of dry sugar may be converted to liquid and stored in the cells.

Important note

Sugar remaining in combs must not be extracted with the next honey crop. The sugar will contaminate the honey and the extracted product will not conform to the legal standards set out in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code - Standard 2.8.2 – Honey*. Ideally, the amount of sugar that was given to the hive will be fully eaten by the bees at the time hives are placed on a honey flow. This is not always possible to achieve. Also, during expansion of the brood nest, sugar stored in brood nest combs may be moved by the bees to the honey super.

Acknowledgements

This Agnote was developed by Russell Goodman, Biosecurity Victoria, Knoxfield. It was reviewed by apiary officers, Joe Riordan and Daniel Martin, and commercial beekeeper, Bob McDonald.

Source: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/honey-bees/compliance-and-management/feeding-honey-bee-colonies-to-prevent-starvation>

Regular Items

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 Hives (members only)

As the club has limited capacity to create Nucs and demand outstrips supply, we offer them members only and preference is given 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.

June Meeting

Guest Speaker Bill Winner from Capilano speaking on Beecotic Honey and the Australian "Manuka" Honey. The main raffle prize is a \$20.00 Voucher kindly donated by Burnett Beekeeping Supplies.

How I started in Bees.

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

- June - **Doug Delaforce**
- July - **Willem Den Otter**

Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on the 12th June 2017

Supper Roster

- June - **Philip & Grace Bond - Philip & Cliff Booth.**
- July - **Leon & Noel Bowers. Bradley Charwood and Joan Coates**
-

Room Set up

- June - **Phillip Dunlop**
- July - **Ken Freiberg**

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

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 on 0417 796 257

Contact Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies on 3376 5404.

Flow Hive

Any questions or information about Flow-Hive can be sent to Darryl at Redone360@hotmail.com you can call him on 0405133 360 or look for him at our meeting.

Facebook

Our club's official Facebook page is at: www.facebook.com/groups/1430687710358660/

You can also follow the links from our website.

I&WMBA Committee 2016 - 2017

Patron	Norm Hinton	
President	Phil Geeves	0409 485 447
Vice President	George Pallot	07 3202 8332
Secretary	Noela Geeves	07 3281 4165
Treasurer	Kellie Round	0407 114 513
Assistant Secretary	Mike Trott	07 5464 1949
Committee	Mark Meerwald	0410 658 603
Committee	Grahame Yates	07 3288 8238
Flow Hive	Darryl Ryan	0405133 360
Newsletter & website	Phil Corbett	0419 196 330

Disclaimer

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IPSWICH AND WEST MORETON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Nomination form for Management Committee 2017 - 2018

Nominations for the positions on the Management Committee must reach the Secretary at 40 Whitehill Road Eastern Heights 4305 by Tuesday 18th July 2017

There are nine members on the management committee:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- 4 Committee Members

All parties to the nomination form must be financial members of the club.

I _____
Name of Proposer

Being a financial member of the Ipswich and West Moreton Beekeepers Association Inc.

Hereby Nominate _____
Name of Nominee

For the position of _____

On the management of the above Association

Signed _____ Proposer

Signed _____ Seconder

Signed _____ Nominee